

"The American" Slain In Somalia

ABDI GULED
JASON STRAZIUSO
 Associated Press
MOGADISHU, Somalia
(AP) — An American who became one of Somalia's most visible Islamic rebels and was on the FBI's Most Wanted Terrorist list with a \$5 million bounty on his head was killed Thursday by rivals in the al-Qaida-linked extremist group al-Shabab, militants said.



American-born Islamist militant Omar Hammami addresses al-Shabab in Mogadishu, Somalia. Hammami, a jihadi from Alabama, was killed Thursday, Sept. 12, 2013.

(AP Photo/Farah Warsameh)

The killing of Omar Hammami, an Alabama native known for his rap-filled propaganda videos, may discourage other would-be jihadis from the U.S. and elsewhere from traveling to Somalia, terrorism experts said.

Hammami, whose nom de guerre was Abu Mansoor Al-Amriki, or "the American," was killed in an ambush in southern Somalia following months on the run after falling out with al-Shabab's top leader, the militants said.

Reports of Hammami's death have cropped up every few months in Somalia, only for him to resurface.

Continued on Page 9



DOWN THE SHORE

Fire Ravages Rebuilt Jersey Shore Boardwalk

Onlookers watch from the shore as black smoke rises from a fire on the Seaside Heights, N.J. boardwalk Thursday, Sept. 12, 2013. The fire started in the vicinity of an ice cream shop and burned several blocks of boardwalk and businesses in a town that was still rebuilding from damage caused by Superstorm Sandy.

(AP Photo/Bob Bielik)

KATE ZERNIKE
 © 2013 New York Times

A Jersey Shore boardwalk barely rebuilt after Hurricane Sandy was ravaged by fire Thursday, as flames that began in a historic frozen custard shop quickly engulfed businesses along a stretch of beach in two towns. Video footage showed flames and black plumes of smoke shooting high above the Boardwalk in Seaside Park. Within hours, strong gusts of wind had swept the fire north along the adjoining Boardwalk of Seaside Heights, where a roller coaster that had sat mangled in the

ocean for months became a symbol of the storm's damage. Reports from the scene said that the fire had swept through Funtown Arcade and Carousel Pier, apparently damaging a carousel that had been painstakingly restored after the storm. Firefighters were removing strips of newly built boardwalk and pumping water from Barnegat Bay to try to contain the blaze. By evening they had dug a trench in the sand along the Boardwalk, hoping to stop it from moving farther north. Mayor Robert Matthies of Seaside Park called the fire and strong

winds "a combination of the worst elements at one time." The fire began in the afternoon, and by evening, flames had spread west, to a condominium in Seaside Heights, threatening homes and businesses as far as four blocks inland. The police had closed Route 35, the major artery north from Seaside Park through Seaside Heights and the other towns of the narrow barrier island, and had also closed off one of the bridges connecting it to the mainland. Gov. Chris Christie of New Jersey, whose national profile rose with his response to

Hurricane Sandy, posted a message on Twitter just before 6 p.m. to say he was on his way to the scene of the fire. In July, the governor played games along the boardwalk in Seaside Heights with Prince Harry of Britain, in an effort to show that the shore had bounced back from the storm last October. Firefighters were being treated for smoke inhalation, but officials said early on that it appeared there were no serious injuries. The fire apparently started at Kohr's Frozen Custard along the Boardwalk in Seaside Park. □

Lhota accuses de Blasio of trying to divide New York City

MICHAEL M. GRYNBAUM

THOMAS KAPLAN

© 2013 New York Times

NEW YORK - Joseph J. Lhota and Bill de Blasio embraced the role of fierce rivals on Thursday, displaying the testy tenor and deep ideological divide of a general election match-up in the race for mayor of New York City even as thousands of ballots from the primary had yet to be counted.

In his first remarks since

securing the Republican nomination, Lhota promised "a takedown" of his likely Democratic opponent, accusing de Blasio of dividing New Yorkers with his populist "tale of two cities" message and of promoting "a repudiation of everything great that's happened over the last 20 years."

It did not take long for de Blasio to fire back. Speaking at a campaign rally with labor supporters in

Brooklyn, de Blasio said his critics had failed to address the most serious economic issues facing the city.

"Acceptance of inequality, turning the other way when there's inequality, that's not an American value, and that's not the values of the city of New York," de Blasio said to cheers.

Neither candidate made a single mention of William C. Thompson Jr., the second-place finisher in the Democratic primary, who spent

the day in seclusion and then met with his closest supporters in the evening to weigh whether to concede the nomination battle to de Blasio, even before the city makes an official determination of whether a runoff election will be required.

Lhota, unburdened by any lingering electoral uncertainty, moved immediately into general-election attack mode, reflecting his urgent need, as a Republican in a deeply Democrat-

ic city, to loudly and quickly convey his message to a wide audience of voters who may not be familiar with him yet.

In a series of interviews and campaign appearances, Lhota portrayed de Blasio as a free-spending liberal who wants to raise taxes and pursue an ideological agenda that would undo the progress made by the current mayor, Michael R. Bloomberg, and his predecessor, Rudolph W. Giuliani. "His approach to things is to tear things down and build them up in the image that he wants, which I think is a failed image," Lhota, a former deputy mayor in the Giuliani administration, said in an interview on a local Fox television station.

Lhota often spoke as if de Blasio, who is currently the public advocate, were already his opponent, and he took specific aim at the Democrat's "tale of two cities" campaign slogan, saying, "That level of invective has no place in any campaign, at all."

"It divides people," Lhota added, referring to the slogan. "What we really need to do is to work together." Asked by one interviewer if he would "take down" de Blasio in November, Lhota answered in the affirmative: "I do want to have a takedown," and added, "I'm going to do it because there's a stark difference between us."

That difference was highlighted by de Blasio himself later Wednesday, as he addressed a roaring rally beneath the pockmarked columns of the entrance to Brooklyn Borough Hall.

Looking confident in a powder-blue shirt and greeted like a conquering hero by a crowd of Brooklyn politicians, de Blasio stuck to the well-worn liberal script of his primary campaign, pronouncing himself "proud to be on the side of working people."

In a clear jab at Lhota, whom he did not cite by name, de Blasio noted that "some people" had labeled him divisive for talking about economic inequality. □



Joseph Lhota, right, the Republican nominee for mayor of New York, speaks to reporters after his visit to the grave site of Lubavitcher Rebe Schneerson at Old Montefiore Cemetery in New York, Sept. 12, 2013. Lhota, in a series of interviews, criticized his likely Democratic opponent for mayor, Bill de Blasio, portraying him as a free-spending liberal who wants to raise taxes.

(Bryan Thomas/The New York Times)

Boehner seeking to draw Obama into debt talks

JONATHAN WEISMAN

© 2013 New York Times

WASHINGTON - With Congress momentarily freed from the Syrian crisis, lawmakers plunged back into their fiscal standoff Thursday as Speaker John A. Boehner appealed to the Obama administration and Democratic leaders to help him resolve divisions in the Republican ranks that could lead to a government shutdown by month's end.

In meetings with Democratic and Republican congressional leaders Thursday after a session with Treasury Secretary Jacob J. Lew

on Wednesday, Boehner sought a resumption of negotiations that could keep the government running and yield a deficit-reduction deal that would persuade recalcitrant conservatives to raise the government's borrowing limit.

Much of the federal government will shut down Oct. 1 unless Congress approves new spending bills to replace expiring ones, and by mid-October, the Treasury Department will lose the borrowing authority to finance the government and pay its debts.

"It's time for the president's party to show the courage

to work with us to solve this problem," said Boehner, who argued that budget deals have been part of past agreements to raise the debt limit.

Just five scheduled legislative days stand between the House and a government shutdown that has loomed for months.

Lew and congressional Democrats held firm that they would no longer negotiate on raising the debt ceiling. And they made it clear to the speaker that they would never accept Republican demands to repeal, defund or delay President Barack Obama's

signature health care law. White House officials dismissed it as "a nonstarter." This week, Rep. Eric Cantor of Virginia, the No. 2 House Republican, proposed a two-step resolution to the fiscal impasse that was temporarily pushed into the background by the Syrian crisis.

Under Cantor's plan, the House would have voted this week on a stopgap spending bill to keep the government operating through mid-December at the current level, which reflects sharp, across-the-board cuts known as sequestration. □

Senate confirms nominee caught up in Benghazi

DONNA CASSATA
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate on Thursday confirmed Victoria Nuland, President Barack Obama's choice as chief U.S. envoy for Europe who was widely criticized for her role in the talking points created after last year's deadly assault in Benghazi, Libya.

By voice vote and with no debate, the Senate approved the nomination of Nuland, who had served as State Department spokeswoman during Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton's tenure. U.S. Ambassador Chris Stevens and three other Americans died in an attack on the U.S. diplomatic mission in Benghazi on Sept. 11, 2012. In the days after the assault, Obama administration officials put together talking points to be used by then-U.N. Ambassador Susan Rice for a series of appearances on the Sunday talk shows and for briefing members of the House Intelligence committee. Rice blamed the attack on extremists who hijacked a spontaneous protest against an anti-Islam video. The widely debunked remarks scuttled her chances of replacing Clinton as secretary of State. Republicans accused the administration of misleading Congress and the American people in the immediate aftermath of the attack, trying to play down an act of terrorism that would reflect poorly on Obama weeks before the 2012 presidential election. Emails sought by congressional Republicans showed that Nuland expressed concern that any mention of prior warnings or the involvement of al-Qaida in the talking points would give congressional Republicans ammunition to attack the administration in the weeks before the presidential election.

She had sought removal of a reference to a CIA warning about the potential for anti-American demonstrations in Cairo and jihadists trying to break into that embassy. □

Colorado flooding cuts off mountain towns, kills 3

P. SOLOMON BANDA
Associated Press

LYONS, Colorado (AP) — Heavy rains sent walls of water crashing down mountainsides Thursday in Colorado, cutting off remote towns, forcing the state's largest university to close and leaving at least three people dead across a rugged landscape that included areas blackened

by recent wildfires.

A storm system has been dropping rain on the region for much of the week. Up to 8 inches (20 centimeters) fell in an area spanning from the Wyoming border south to the foothills west of Denver. Flooding extended all along the Front Range mountains, including the cities of Colorado Springs, Denver, Fort

Collins, Greeley, Aurora and Boulder.

One person was killed when a structure collapsed in the tiny town of Jamestown northwest of Boulder. Another person drowned in northern Boulder as he was trying to help a woman who was swept away in a torrent of water, authorities said. Boulder County sheriff's Cmdr. Heidi Pren-

tup said the woman is still missing.

To the south, Colorado Springs police conducting flood patrols found the body of a 54-year-old man in a creek on the west side of the city.

Numerous roads were washed out or made impassable by floods. Parts of several interstate highways in the Denver area were closed for a time. Floodwaters poured into homes, and at least a few buildings collapsed in the torrent.

Boulder County appeared to be hardest hit. Sheriff Joe Pelle said the town of Lyons was completely cut off because of flooded roads, and residents were huddling together on higher ground. Although everyone was believed to be safe, the deluge was expected to continue into Friday.

"It is not an ordinary disaster," Pelle said. "All the preparation in the world ... it can't put people up those canyons while these walls of water are coming down."

Rain is normally soaked up by a sponge-like layer of pine needles and twigs on the forest floor. But wildfires incinerate that layer and leave a residue in the top layer of soil that sheds water. A relatively light rain can rush down charred hillsides into streambeds, picking up dirt, ash, rocks and tree limbs along the way. Narrow canyons aggravate the threat. □



In this image made with a slow shutter speed which blurred the rushing water, flood waters course through a small park in Boulder, Colo., Thursday, Sept. 12, 2013. Heavy rains and scarring from recent wildfires sent walls of water crashing down mountainsides in the area.

(AP Photo/Jud Valeski)

US government to declassify parts of secret order

F. J. FROMMER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. government says it will declassify parts of a 2008 secret court order that required Yahoo to turn over customer data under the National Security Agency's PRISM data-gathering program. In a filing Thursday with the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court, the Justice Department said that the declassification would make possible the publication of "much of the court's opinion and order." But the depart-

ment said that some of the information in the opinion must remain classified and would be redacted.

Thursday's ruling came after the presiding judge on the court ordered the government to conduct a "declassification review" of the 2008 order and legal briefs in the case.

Yahoo was among several U.S. Internet businesses identified as giving the National Security Agency access to customer data under the PRISM program. In a filing with the FISA Court in June, Yahoo asked

that the 2008 opinion be released, along with legal briefs in the case. In a subsequent filing the next month, Yahoo said that the disclosure of the opinion and briefs would allow the company to "demonstrate that it objected strenuously to the directives that are now the subject of debate, and objected at every stage of the proceeding," but that its objections were overruled. Revelations about the PRISM program by former NSA systems analyst Edward Snowden have prompted a broad-

er debate about government monitoring and the privacy of Americans' communications. The case is separate from another one Yahoo has pending that urges the FISA Court to allow the company to disclose data on national security orders it received under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act. Facebook, Google and Microsoft have similar motions pending with the court. Neither Yahoo nor the Justice Department had any comment on Thursday's filing. □

Teen convicted of killing baby in stroller gets life in prison

RUSS BYNUM

Associated Press

BRUNSWICK, Georgia (AP)

— A teenager convicted of fatally shooting a baby in a stroller was sentenced Thursday to spend the rest of his life in prison with no chance of parole after the grieving mother asked a judge to punish the gunman for taking “the love of my life.”

In a case that has drawn attention around the country, 18-year-old De'Marquise Elkins stood

charged as an accomplice testified at trial that Elkins killed the baby after his mother refused to give up her purse.

Elkins was spared the death penalty because the killing occurred when he was 17, which the U.S. Supreme Court has ruled is too young to face capital punishment. Under Georgia law, the only possible punishments for Elkins were life with or without a chance of parole.

But Elkins' defense attor-

was killed.

“We're definitely disappointed with the ruling,” defense attorney Kevin Gough said as he left Glynn County Superior Court. “Life without parole for a juvenile, our position remains, is cruel and unusual punishment.”

Gough said he plans to appeal both the verdict and the sentence. Elkins would have been eligible for parole in 30 years had that been allowed as part of his sentence.

Ultimately the judge sided with prosecutors who urged him to consider the brutal circumstances of the crime and that Elkins escaped facing the death penalty only because he shot the baby a few months shy of his 18th birthday. “He aimed that gun right between that baby's eyes and shot that baby,” District Attorney Jackie Johnson said. “I don't know of a more inhumane act or wantonly vile act ... than to aim a gun at a sleeping baby in a stroller and take that baby's life.”

At trial, prosecutors had said West was pushing her son in his stroller home that March day from a post office when two teenagers approached her, blocks from her apartment.

Dominique Lang, 15, testified at trial he was with Elkins when the older teen pulled a gun and demanded West's purse. When she refused, Lang said, Elkins twice threatened her baby and counted down from five. West testified she pleaded with Elkins that she had no money and tried to cover her child with her arms as the gunman fired a warning shot, fired a bullet into her leg and then shot the baby.

Police recovered a .22-caliber revolver from a pond, and prosecutors said it matched the gun used in the killing.

Lang also faces murder charges. No trial date has been set and it's unknown how his cooperation in the Elkins prosecution might affect his case. □



De'Marquise Elkins, center, stands with his lawyers, public defender Kevin Gough and assistant public defender Elizabeth Ashley Wood, as he is sentenced, Thursday, Sept. 12, 2013 in Brunswick, Ga. Elkins convicted of fatally shooting a baby in a stroller was sentenced Thursday to spend the rest of his life in prison with no chance of parole after the grieving mother asked a judge to punish the gunman for taking “the love of my life.” (AP Photo/Bobby Haven)

silent and showed no emotion as he was sentenced less than two weeks after a jury found him guilty of murder in the slaying of 13-month-old Antonio Santiago during a robbery attempt.

“His first word was never heard. His first sentence was never said,” Sherry West, the baby's mother, said through tears on the witness stand as she read a statement made to rhyme like a poem or a nursery rhyme. “He never got to sleep in a toddler bed.”

The baby was in his stroller and out for a walk with his mother when he was shot between the eyes March 21 in the Georgia coastal city of Brunswick. West and a younger teenager

neys told Judge Stephen Kelley that life without parole was too harsh for such a young defendant. They introduced court documents from the past seven years showing Elkins had been neglected by a mother who struggled with drug abuse and sometimes left him home alone without food.

The judge not only gave Elkins the maximum possible punishment for his murder conviction, but also sentenced him to 105 additional years in prison for other counts including aggravated assault and attempted armed robbery. That included 30 years for shooting and wounding a pastor outside his church 10 days before the baby

Police arrest women at immigration rally

WASHINGTON (AP) — Police arrested more than 100 women who protested Thursday outside the U.S. Capitol and demanded that Congress move forward on immigration legislation. Immigration has been a rare area of bipartisan cooperation and confidence was high earlier in the year on a sweeping overhaul of the system and a path to citizenship for millions. But the crisis over Syria has taken the attention of lawmakers and the Obama administration. The women, wearing T-shirts stating “Women for Fair Immigration Reform,” joined hands and sat in a circle on an avenue near the Capitol. They chanted slogans as police handcuffed them and loaded them into vans. U.S. Capitol Police didn't have immediate information on what the women were being charged with. Organizers said some two dozen of the women are in the U.S. illegally. Lawmakers returned to Washington this week after a five-week summer

recess with no clear way forward on immigration.

One participant in the protest, Maria Galban of Los Angeles, who said she is a Mexican citizen in the U.S. illegally, said she wanted to send a message to Congress that immigration reform is needed to keep families like hers together. She said she and her husband are here illegally but their two daughters have gained legal status under a program by President Barack Obama to stop deportations of immigrants brought to the U.S. as youths. “We need immigration reform. We want to contribute economically to this country,” said Galban, 43, who said she can't get the license she needs to work as a hairdresser because she doesn't have legal status. Organizers with the group We Belong Together and other organizations said the protest was meant to spotlight the impact of the nation's faulty immigration system on women and families. □

Cold obit for abusive mother goes viral

SCOTT SONNER

Associated Press

RENO, Nevada (AP)

— The children of an abusive woman whose horror stories prompted Nevada to become one of the first states to allow children to sever parental ties wrote a scathing obituary that was published in the local newspaper — and has since become an Internet sensation.

The obituary opened with a harsh statement about the legacy of Marianne Theresa Johnson-Reddick: “On behalf of her children who she abrasively exposed to her evil and violent life, we celebrate her passing from this earth and hope she lives in the after-life reliving each gesture of violence, cruelty and shame that she delivered on her children.” Katherine Reddick said she wrote it about her mother, who died at a Reno nursing home Aug. 30 at the age of 78.

Now a psychology consultant for a school district outside Austin, Texas, she

said she decided to share the story of their painful physical and mental abuse after consulting with her brother, Patrick Reddick. They said they grew up with four siblings in a Carson City orphanage after they were removed from their mother's home and had been estranged from her for more than 30 years. “Everyone she met, adult or child was tortured by her cruelty and exposure to violence, criminal activity, vulgarity, and hatred of the gentle or kind human spirit,” the obit said. “Our greatest wish now is to stimulate a national movement that mandates a purposeful and dedicated war against child abuse in the United States of America.”

John Maher, president and publisher of the newspaper, said in a “note to readers” that the paper had “removed the online listing of this obituary as we continue our review of the circumstances surrounding its placement.” □

US priest sentenced to 50 years for child porn



Photo shows Rev. Shawn Ratigan. Ratigan, whose child pornography case led to a criminal conviction against a Roman Catholic bishop, was sentenced Thursday, Sept. 12, 2013, to 50 years in federal prison.

(AP Photo)

BILL DRAPER
Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Missouri (AP)

— A priest whose case led to a criminal conviction against his bishop will likely spend the rest of his life in a federal prison after being sentenced to 50 years on Thursday for producing or trying to produce child pornography.

The Rev. Shawn Ratigan pleaded guilty in August of last year to five counts

— one for each of his five young victims. He was charged in May 2011 after police received a flash drive from his computer containing hundreds of images of children, most of them clothed, with the focus on their crotch areas. Ratigan, 47, apologized to his victims and their families before learning his punishment and asked the judge for the statutory minimum sentence of 15 years for

each count, with the terms to all run at the same time. "Prison is hell," Ratigan said. "I know I deserve 15 years, but 50 years? Come on, I don't think so."

His public defender, Robert Kuchar, argued that Ratigan's offenses weren't as bad as those of other child pornographers whose photos are more graphic and often include images of the victims participating in sexual acts.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Katharine Fincham described Ratigan as a serial sex offender who was arrogant and had a sense of entitlement he thought would keep him from getting caught. She said he deserved the long sentence because he violated the trust of his victims and their families by using his position as a clergyman to get close enough to them to take illicit photos of the children.

A computer technician working on Ratigan's laptop in December 2010 found hundreds of troubling images of young girls and reported it to officials with the Catholic Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph. Instead of turning the photos over to police or reporting suspicions about Ratigan, Bishop Robert Finn

sent him away for psychiatric evaluation and later ordered him to stay at a convent where he could say Mass for the sisters and stay away from children.

The photos were given to police in May 2011 after Ratigan violated Finn's orders.

Jackson County prosecutors charged Finn and the diocese in October 2011 with one misdemeanor charge each of failing to report suspected child abuse, because of the five-month delay between when the photos were found on Ratigan's computer and when the diocese reported him to police.

Prosecutor Jean Peters Baker said Finn and the diocese were required under

state law to report the discovery to police because the images gave them reason to believe a child had been abused.

Finn was convicted of one count last September and sentenced to two years of supervised probation. The charge against the diocese was dropped.

If Finn abides by a set of stipulations from the judge, his conviction will be wiped from his record next year.

On Thursday, parents of one of Ratigan's victims said a 50-year sentence was sufficient so that he will never be able to harm the children again.

"We witnessed our outgoing, vibrant little girl become depressed, withdrawn, anxious," her mother said, sobbing at times. □

Bullied 12-year-old US girl commits suicide

LAKELAND, Florida (AP) —

A 12-year-old girl committed suicide after she was bullied online by more than a dozen girls and a sheriff said Thursday that he is investigating whether he can file charges under a new Florida state law that covers cyber-bullying.

Sheriff Grady Judd said that Rebecca Ann Sedwick jumped to her death on Monday at an old cement business. Investigators say the girl was despondent after others had posted hate messages about her online. Sedwick was "absolutely terrorized on social media," Judd said.

The Lakeland Ledger reports that detectives found multiple social media applications where Sedwick

was constantly bullied with messages, including "Go kill yourself," and "Why are you still alive?"

He said parents of all 15 girls have cooperated with detectives and several cellphones and laptops have been confiscated.

Judd said charges could be filed — including cyber stalking.

"If we can get any evidence of a criminal offense, the person or persons involved will be punished," he said.

Before her death, Sedwick had searched questions online related to suicide, including "How many over-the-counter drugs do you take to die?" and "How many Advil do you have to take to die?"

Detectives also found photos of Sedwick with razor blades lying on her arms and with her head resting on a railroad track, Judd said.

Judd said a 12-year-old boy in North Carolina, who Sedwick met through social media, knew of her plan. Sedwick messaged him only hours before her death saying she was dead and "I'm jumping, I can't take it anymore."

Sedwick also changed her name on a free messaging application to "That Dead Girl." Judd said detectives are trying to investigate the social media applications that Sedwick used, including Kik and Ask.fm, but many of the websites are based in other countries. □

Enjoy our
much celebrated
**3-Course
Dinner Special!**

Appetizer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fish Soup • Onion Soup • Conch Fritters • Escargot • Salad
Entrée	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fresh Catch of the Day prepared by our local chef just the way you like it. • Jumbo Shrimp from our local waters, breaded served with potato or rice or with garlic tossed over linguine. • Filet Mignon* 8 oz. US Tenderloin • Grilled Boneless Chicken Breast
Dessert	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chocolate or Banana Cake • Ice Cream • Coffee / Tea

**3-course dinner
\$25.95
per person**

This special cannot be used with any other promotions, vouchers or certificates.

Open daily from 5:00pm - 10:30pm (closed on Sundays)
For reservations call: 583-2515 - Klipstraat 12, Downtown.
www.driftwoodaruba.com • driftwood@setarnet.aw



In this photo provided by Mark McBreairty, a balloon cluster carrying Jonathan Trappe lifts off from Caribou, Maine, Thursday, Sept. 12, 2013.

(AP Photo/Mark McBreairty)

Balloons used in trans-Atlantic attempt

CARIBOU, Maine (AP) — Hundreds of multicolored balloons used Thursday to launch a balloonist for a trans-Atlantic crossing look like a page taken from the script of the movie "Up." Instead of using a conventional hot-air balloon, Jonathan Trappe lifted off using more than 300 helium-filled balloons, like those used in adventure in the Disney-

Pixar movie.

Trappe's goal is to float across the ocean. "The Atlantic Ocean has been crossed many times, and in many ways, but never quite like this," the North Carolina native said on his website, which detailed his efforts. City Manager Austin Bleess said about 150 volunteers assisted in filling the helium balloons starting

Wednesday night. Trappe and his balloons lifted off from a foggy softball field in northern Maine, near the Canadian border, at sunrise Thursday.

"Man, it was awesome," Bleess said. "It was amazing to watch."

Also on hand Thursday was Joe Kittinger, a retired Air Force officer who once set a record for jumping from a balloon 19.5 miles (31 kilometers) up and later became the first solo balloonist to cross the Atlantic in 1984.

As for Trappe, he's no stranger to the cluster balloons.

He's used them to fly in an office chair, and he's used them to lift a faux house, just like in the animated movie "Up." In 2010, he crossed the English Channel using a cluster of balloons. For his trans-Atlantic crossing, the basket in which he's riding is actually a lifeboat that could be used if he ditches in the Atlantic.

Trappe worked on the trans-Atlantic crossing for two years and hoped to be the first person to succeed in doing so with a cluster of balloons. By Thursday afternoon, he was well on his way, headed toward Newfoundland. The airborne journey, if it goes according to plan, could take anywhere from three days to six days. Wind currents could bring him to northern Africa or Norway. □

U.S. man charged with shipping guns internationally via internet

BRETT BARROQUERE

Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Kentucky (AP)

— In a secretive corner of the Internet, buyers and sellers can meet up in a marketplace where virtually anything is available. It's there, federal investigators said, that 33-year-old Adam Joseph Bungler used various aliases to sell weapons to buyers in Australia, England and other countries with strict firearm purchasing and ownership laws. Bungler is charged in federal court in Kentucky with shipping a firearm in foreign commerce, delivering a firearm to an unlicensed person without notice to the carrier and obliterating the serial number from a firearm. Bungler has no attorney listed in court records and efforts to locate him on Thursday were unsuccessful.

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives agents said Bungler used a site called Black Market Reloaded to offer and sell weapons to buyers across the world. Eventually, Special Agent David S. Hayes wrote in a criminal complaint that Bungler sold weapons to people in Australia, England and tried to sell one to a buyer in Sweden between June and August.

Black Market Reloaded is a site run by a company in Dresden, Germany, where buyers and sellers can connect to exchange online money for drugs — real and fake, whisky, guns and replica suits, birth certificates and driver's licenses. The site is secretive and allows buyers and sellers to use online pseudonyms to conduct transactions with Bitcoins — an online currency can be transferred through a computer or smartphone without an intermediate financial institution.

The site relies on a tool called Tor to make users anonymous. A message left for the Dresden, Germany-based site was not immediately returned Thursday. About the only thing not available on the site is child pornography. One seller

who posts as "Mike Delacruz" said selling that will get a vendor banned immediately.

In an obscenity-laced message in response to questions from The Associated Press, Delacruz said vendors don't want attention from reporters.

"Because of you the site might get more attention from law enforcement," Delacruz said. "Just find another thing to write about and get the ... out of here unless you want to buy something."

Hayes started a criminal investigation into Bungler in early July, after Australian police reported that they had intercepted a package containing the components of a Modelo Super 9mm pistol.

The disassembled gun was hidden inside an Xbox system, Hayes said. Australian police arrested the intended recipient of the handgun and the man told investigators he bought the weapon off Black Market Reloaded.

The ATF traced back the Australia shipment to Bowling Green and to a sender called "John Smith." Postal records showed that "Smith" mailed two other international packages on the day he sent the Australia parcel.

Later that month, agents found two international packages at a Bowling Green post office listing "John Smith" as the shipper. A clerk described the man dropping off the packages for investigators. A search of one of the packages revealed that a disassembled "Uzi style pistol" with its serial number obliterated and a "suspected flash suppressor" were contained inside a hollow Xbox console. The package was addressed to a customer in the United Kingdom. The second package, addressed to someone in Australia, contained firearms parts including a magazine, butt stock and fore stock for an assault rifle concealed inside a DVD player, Hayes wrote. □



WACKY WAHOOS

PALM BEACH #33-A WWW.WACKYWAHOOS.COM

STEAK, SEAFOOD, B.B.Q. & FUN!

Ex-Hadicurari BBQ & Grill with the same owner's.
We do our own daily fishing so we serve the freshest seafood on the Island.

**Very reasonable price, exciting menu and
NO SERVICE CHARGE**

Dinner from 5:30 - 10:00
Monday - Saturday



FRESH CATCH & SEAFOOD
We are located close to the High-rise hotel's at walking distance.
RESERVATION REQUIRED

TEL: 586-7333



US Financial Front:

American women regain lost jobs; men still short 2.1M

C. S. RUGABER

PAUL WISEMAN

AP Economics Writers

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S.

women have recovered all the jobs they lost to the Great Recession. The same can't be said for men, who

remain 2.1 million jobs short. The biggest factor is that men dominate construction and manufacturing

— industries that have not recovered millions of jobs lost during the downturn. By contrast, women have made up a disproportionate share of workers in those that have been hiring — retail, education, health care, restaurants and hotels. "It's a segregated labor market, and men and women do work in different industries, and even in different areas within industries," says Heidi Hartmann, an economist and president of the Institute for Women's Policy Research. The gap was evident in the August unemployment rates: 6.8 percent for women, 7.7 percent for men. In August, 68 million women said they were employed, passing the more than the 67.97 million who had jobs when the recession began in December 2007, the government says. Among men, 76.2 million were employed last month, down from 78.3 million in December 2007. Since June 2009, one of the largest gains occurred in a measure of education and health services jobs. That

category added nearly 1.6 million jobs, second most of any industry. And women gained nearly 1.1 million of those jobs.

Women have made big gains in professional and business services, a grab-bag category that includes architects, engineers, information technology workers and temps. Women also make up more than half of the workforce in hotels and restaurants, which has posted the third-largest gain of any industry.

Despite the job gains, the percentage of women working or looking for work has been dropping, just as it has for men. The so-called labor force participation rate for women was 57.3 last month, down from 59.4 percent in December 2007. For men, the participation rate has dropped to 69.5 percent, from 73.1 percent.

Both men and women have been retiring, enrolling in school, registering for Social Security disability payments and just giving up on a weak job market.



Martina Ryberg, right, of Plymouth State University talks with Tara Rossetti of On Call International during a job fair for college students in Manchester, N.H. A report released Thursday, Sept. 12, 2013, shows that U.S. women have recovered all the jobs they lost during the Great Recession. (AP Photo/Jim Cole)

US budget deficit shrinks 35 percent from last year

C. S. RUGABER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The

U.S. government posted a narrower budget deficit in August compared with a year ago, keeping the annual gap on track to be the smallest in five years.

The deficit for August was \$147.9 billion, the Treasury reported Friday. That brought the annual budget gap through the first 11 months to \$755 billion, or 35 percent lower than the nearly \$1.2 trillion in red ink for the same period last year.

The budget year ends on Sept. 30. The Congressional Budget Office projects the government will run a surplus this month, lowering the annual deficit to \$642 billion. That would be the first annual deficit below \$1 trillion in five years.

Steady economic growth has put more people back to work and boosted corporate profits. And Social Security taxes rose at the beginning of the year, along with income tax rates on wealthier Americans. Both trends have raised tax revenue. In Au-

gust, the government collected \$185 billion in taxes, up 4 percent from the same month a year earlier. At the same time, steep government spending cuts that took effect in March have lowered spending. The government spent \$333 billion in August, down 10 percent from a year earlier.

The federal deficit represents the annual difference between the government's spending and the tax revenues it takes in. Each deficit contributes to the national debt, currently \$16.7 trillion.

The narrower deficit hasn't made it easier for Congress to reach agreement on future spending and taxes. Lawmakers need to reach agreement soon on how to fund the government past Oct. 1. Conservative House Republicans have signaled a willingness to force a partial government shutdown as a way of defunding Obama's universal health care law, which they oppose.

The House Republican leadership on Wednesday was forced to postpone a

vote on a bill that would have avoided a shutdown, after tea party conservatives objected.

BINGO!
SUNDAY & TUESDAY • 4PM
FRIDAY • 5PM

TOTAL OF \$1,500 IN CASH PRIZES!

Management reserves all rights. Must be a member of the Trop Advantage® Club to participate. Must be 18 years of age or older. Play responsibly www.gamblersanonymous.org.


TROP
CLUB & CASINO
troparuba.com

TROPICANA ENTERTAINMENT CASINOS
TROPICANACASINOS.COM

Kerry talks tough in Syria encounter with Russia

**MATTHEW
NANCY BENAC
Associated Press**

GENEVA (AP) — Striking a tough tone, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry opened swiftly convened talks with Russia on Syria's chemical weapons Thursday by bluntly rejecting a Syrian pledge to begin a "standard process" by turning over information rather than weapons — and nothing immediately. That won't do, Kerry declared at an opening news conference, a stone-faced Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov at his side. "The words of the Syrian regime in our judgment are simply not enough." "This is not a game," Kerry said of the latest developments in a series that has rapidly gone from deadly chemical attacks to threats of retaliatory U.S. air strikes to Syrian agreement with a Russian plan to turn over the weapons and, finally, to the crucial matter of working out the difficult details.

"We believe there is nothing standard about this process at this moment because of the way the regime has behaved," Kerry declared. And he kept alive the threat of U.S. military action, saying the turn-over of weapons must be complete, verifiable and timely — "and finally, there ought to consequences if it

LEE

doesn't take place."

Adding to the drama, Russian President Vladimir Putin weighed in from afar, raising eyebrows with an opinion piece in The New York Times that chided Americans for seeing themselves as "exceptional." That was an apparent reference to a comment President Barack Obama

Putin also warned that a U.S. strike against Syria because of chemical weapons use could unleash new terrorist attacks. And he still maintained there is "every reason to believe" the weapons were used by rebels and not by Assad's military. In Washington, Obama's spokesman said Russia was "isolated and

ry, Lavrov and their teams of chemical weapons experts plunge into talks aimed at finding agreement on how to dismantle the chemical weapons amid the confusion and danger of Syria's civil war. Lavrov seemed to contradict Kerry's negative view of Syrian President Bashar Assad's offer to provide

ons." That suggests Russia does not agree with the U.S. that this is an exceptional case and that Syria should face tougher standards than other countries. "We proceed from the fact that the solution to this problem will make unnecessary any strike on the Syrian Arab Republic, and I am convinced that our American colleagues, as President Obama stated, are firmly convinced that we should follow a peaceful way of resolution to the conflict in Syria." Lavrov said.

The distrust in U.S.-Russia relations was on display even in an off-hand parting exchange at the news conference.

Just before it ended, Kerry asked the Russian translator to repeat part of Lavrov's concluding remarks. When it was clear that Kerry wasn't going to get an immediate re-translation, Lavrov apparently tried to assure him that he hadn't said anything controversial. "It was OK, John, don't worry," he said.

"You want me to take your word for it?" Kerry asked Lavrov. "It's a little early for that."

They were smiling at that point.

Shortly after making their opening statements, the two went into a private dinner. Talks were to resume Friday.

The meetings in Geneva got underway as Assad, in an interview with Russia's Rossiya-24 TV, said his government would start submitting data on its chemical weapons stockpile a month after signing the convention. He also said the Russian proposal for securing the weapons could work only if the U.S. halted threats of military action. □



U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry speaks next to Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, right, during a press conference before their meeting to discuss the ongoing crisis in Syria, in Geneva, Switzerland, Thursday Sept. 12, 2013. Secretary of State John Kerry and his team have opened two days of meetings with their Russian counterparts in Geneva. Kerry is hoping to come away with the outlines of a plan for securing and destroying vast stockpiles of Syrian chemical weapons.

(AP Photo/Larry Downing)

made in his Syria speech Tuesday night, explaining why he felt the U.S. needed to take action. Congress has shown little inclination to authorize military action, and a vote on that has been put off.

alone" in that view. Obama, for his part, said simply that he was hoping for "a concrete result" from the talks. The back-and-forth was a stark indication of the challenging work ahead as Ker-

details on his country's chemical arsenal beginning 30 days after it signs an international convention banning such weapons. Syria's ambassador to the United Nations said that as of Thursday his country had become a full member of the treaty, which requires destruction of all chemical weapons. However, the United Nations said it will take at least another 30 days. The Russian said the initiative must proceed "in strict compliance with the rules that are established by the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weap-



EXCELSIOR CASINO, located at Holiday Inn
The most complete gambling experience!!

★ POKER	★ ROULETTE TABLE
★ SLOT MACHINES	★ CRAPS
★ BLACK JACK	★ BINGO

Lady Luck is waiting for you at **EXCELSIOR CASINO!**
For more information give us a call (297) 586-7777



10 TEN DOLLARS

1 coupon per person per day

GOOD ONLY AT BLACK JACK

EXCELSIOR CASINO LOCATED IN THE HOLIDAY INN ARUBA

BENLO CIGARS

Import & Export • We ship all over the world • Tel.: 5863555
Located in the Arowak Garden, next to Salt & Pepper, Paparazzi and Tango Restaurant.

We are specialized in premium Cuban Cigars.
Opening hours: Mon. - Sat. 8:30am - 11:00pm
Sunday 9:00am - 11:00pm

Depending on purchase, we have discounts starting from 5% up to 20%.
With purchase of \$20 or more 1 FREE CIGAR

Bring this coupon for your free Cuban Cigar!



Our Kitchen is open from
10AM - 10PM
We are CLOSED on SUNDAYS

*Once you visit downtown don't forget
to stop by Mojito's Cantina & Grill.*

Come and enjoy the nice panoramic view of the cruise ships

**We serve Authentic Cuban and
Latin American Cuisine**

Live Bands on Wednesdays - Fridays and Saturdays
and Daily HAPPY HOUR: 2 X 1 starting from 5:00PM - 7:00PM



American jihadi Hammami slain in Somalia by rivals

Continued from front

But J.M. Berger, a U.S. terrorism expert who closely follows the inner workings of al-Shabab, said he thinks the current reports are accurate.

The rebels did not immediately present proof of Hammami's death.

Hammami was highly critical of al-Shabab's leadership over the past year and freely shared his views in Internet videos and on Twitter, making him a marked man. Somalia has long been an attractive destination for foreign fighters, and al-Shabab counts several hundred foreign fighters among its ranks, including about two dozen Somali-Americans from Minneapolis recruited over the past several years.

Hammami's death will hurt the group's recruitment efforts, said Abdirizak Bihi, an advocate for the Somali community in Minnesota and the uncle of a young man killed in Somalia in 2008.

"We always knew the So-

malis inside Somalia knew that al-Shabab was bad," Bihi said. "We were concerned about the Somalis in the diaspora ... who never really knew the facts on the ground and were always manipulated and misled."

"So that's why it's a victory. They now know exactly what al-Shabab is, as much as the Somalis inside."

Terrorism expert Clint Watts wrote on his blog, Select-edwisdom.com, that Hammami's plight "probably soured recruitment pipelines from the West into Somalia."

Along with Adam Gadahn in Pakistan — a former Osama bin Laden spokesman — the 29-year-old Hammami was one of the two most notorious Americans in jihadi groups.

He grew up in Daphne, Alabama, a community of 20,000 outside Mobile, the son of a Christian mother and a Syrian-born Muslim father.

His YouTube videos that featured him rapping and his presence on Twitter

made him one of the most recognizable and studied U.S. foreign fighters. The FBI put Hammami on its Most

wanted list in 2012 and offered a \$5 million reward in March for information leading to his capture. U.S. prosecutors had charged Hammami with providing material support to terrorists.



American-born Islamist militant Omar Hammami, right, and deputy leader of al-Shabab Sheikh Mukhtar Abu Mansur Robow, left, sit during a news conference in Mogadishu, Somalia. Hammami, a jihadi from Alabama whose nom de guerre is Abu Mansoor Al-Amriki, or "the American," was killed Thursday, Sept. 12, 2013.

(AP Photo/Farah Abdi Warsameh)

In Alabama, Husam Omar, not heard of the reports of his death. "I'm shocked," Omar said, declining further comment. A man who answered the door at Hammami's parent's home declined to identify himself and said, "I am sorry, I cannot talk

most houses fly American or Alabama University flags. A member of al-Shabab who gave his name as Sheikh Abu Mohammed told The Associated Press that Hammami was killed in an ambush in Somalia's southern Bay region. □

most houses fly American or Alabama University flags. A member of al-Shabab who gave his name as Sheikh Abu Mohammed told The Associated Press that Hammami was killed in an ambush in Somalia's southern Bay region. □

Curfew in Kashmir after clashes

SRINAGAR, India (AP) — Authorities imposed a curfew in parts of Indian-controlled Kashmir on Thursday to try to quell violent protests over an alleged fatal paramilitary shooting in the disputed territory.

Separatists also called for people to stay indoors Thursday, but for a general strike to protest the killing. Shopian District Deputy Commissioner Bashir Ahmed Bhat said the man was killed Wednesday when paramilitary forces fired pellets at protesters. Residents insist the troops were firing bullets at the crowd protesting near a police camp in Shopian

district, about 50 kilometers (30 miles) south of the territory's main city of Srinagar. The paramilitary denied any role in the shooting.

"Our men were not deployed in the area," said the paramilitary inspector general, Nalin Prabhat.

After the shooting, hundreds of residents hurled stones, shouted anti-India slogans and demanded the police camp be dismantled. Police used tear gas and batons to disperse the crowds.

Shopian has been tense since Saturday, when paramilitary forces killed four men who residents insisted were civilians. □

FEATURING: LIVE LOBSTER, 18 DIFFERENT LOBSTER DISHES, WONDERFUL FRESH SEAFOOD PLATTER, RED SNAPPER FILLET
Australian Mussels, Gratinated Scallops, Oyster soup, Fried calamari, and much, much more. **FOR MEAT LOVERS 16 Oz Porterhouse Steak, 15 Oz. T-Bone steak, 10 Oz Fillet mignon, 12 Oz. Sirloin Steak, Chicken breast, Chicken schnitzel.**

LUNCH OFFERS
CREOLE FOOD AND INTERNATIONAL CUISINE
STARTING UNDER 10 US DOLLARS.

Receive up to 15% discount on your main dishes
5% for credit card and or 15% for cash on International menu.

OPEN MONDAY TO SATURDAY (LUNCH 11 AM—4 PM) (DINNER 5 PM—10 PM)
FOR RESERVATIONS PLEASE CALL (297) 586-3843 / (297) 586-4788 View our menu on
www.arubabluelobster.com, Or write to: info@arubabluelobster.com
KIDS MENU AVAILABLE (KIDS WILL LOVE OUR MENU)
PRESENT THIS AD TO CLAIM YOUR DISCOUNT
THIS PROMOTION CAN BE CHANGED WITHOUT PREVIOUS NOTIFICATION
NO SERVICE CHARGE

tripadvisor
THE BLUE LOBSTER
CERTIFICATE OF EXCELLENCE
FOR THE YEAR OF 2012

Opposition leader asserts broad problems in Moscow race

DAVID M. HERSZENHORN

© 2013 New York Times

MOSCOW - The Russian opposition leader, Aleksei A. Navalny, on Thursday submitted to a court more than 50,000 pages of documents illustrating what he said were irregularities in Sunday's voting in the Moscow mayor's race in an attempt to prove that he won enough votes to force a runoff against the incumbent, Sergei S. Sobyenin. But the court refused to block the inauguration of Sobyenin, who barely cleared the threshold for an outright victory with 51.4 percent. He was sworn in on Thursday evening during a ceremony in the city's World War II museum. According to the official returns, Navalny placed second with 27.2 percent. Yet, even as Navalny and his aides lugged 21 boxes of documents to the courthouse, they acknowledged not only that there was little hope of overturning the results, but that the voting had been relatively fair. So they have adopted a new message: while the vote was generally free of blatant fraud like ballot stuffing, the election itself was rigged from the beginning.

"Our position is that these were unfair elections," Navalny's campaign manager, Leonid Volkov, said in an interview. "We were under pressure. They hampered us and our contractors, cut

down our banners, broke our cars, stole our newspaper, didn't let us work. They pressured us with administrative resources, were constantly on television, gave out groceries." At the rally on Monday,

impossible, that they have television, they have huge amounts of money, they can smear us all on the television shows. But what do we have?"

Although Sobyenin has repeatedly said that the

held this year. Sobyenin resigned unexpectedly from the mayor's post in June, only to declare that he would run in snap elections to be held less than three months later, putting potential opponents at a

year sentence, only to be released the next day, at the government's request, so he could run in the mayor's race. At any moment, Navalny's appeal of his conviction could be denied and he could be



Supporters of Alexei Navalny, an opposition candidate for Moscow mayor, wait by a canal before a rally in central Moscow. Official results showed that the incumbent won Sunday's election outright, but Navalny accused the authorities of stealing votes and called for a recount.
(James Hill/The New York Times)

Navalny admitted feeling overwhelmed by his opponent's resources.

"Each time when I am asked, 'Do you believe in victory?' I would say, 'I believe in victory, I believe that we can win these elections,'" Navalny said. "But somewhere there was still the thought that it was

elections were fair and honest, his insistence has only served to confirm the widespread belief that previous elections were rigged. His remarks also seemed somewhat disconnected from the unusual circumstances of the mayoral race, which was not even scheduled to be

steep disadvantage. Meanwhile, Navalny was making repeated trips to Kirov, a regional capital that is a 13-hour train ride from Moscow, to stand trial on embezzlement charges widely viewed as trumped up for political reasons. He was convicted in July and ordered to start a five-

sent back to prison, separated from his wife and young children and removed from public life. It is a threat that he has lived with for months now, and that he said would not deter him and other opposition leaders from building on his success in Sunday's election. □

European lawmakers expand power of central bank

JAMES KANTER

© 2013 New York Times

BRUSSELS - EU legislators overwhelmingly approved a law Thursday that puts about 130 of the eurozone's largest banks under the scrutiny of the European Central Bank.

The legislation contains provisions that would give the European Parliament somewhat more oversight of the ECB when the bank assumes its new authority. The vote is an important development, but not the final one, in a winding process that began in early 2012, during one of the

most fevered periods in the eurozone financial crisis.

The measure still needs approval from EU governments to take effect, although that is expected to be a formality. The Single Supervisory Mechanism it creates is expected to start work during the autumn of 2014 after the ECB conducts a "stress test" on the lenders coming within its purview. The idea is that the central bank would do a better job than national supervisors of nipping financial problems in the bud so that governments would not need to resort to

bank bailouts that destabilize the euro and penalize taxpayers. Once up and running, the new supervisory authority will have a range of powers to intervene when it detects problems, including the ability to conduct inspections that could lead to sanctions on banks or their managers. The measure is the first step toward a broader, Europe-wide vision of banking. The next stage of that effort - creation of a single system for shutting or restructuring banks, is underway. But progress has been slowed by Germany's reluctance

to commit to a banking union that could lead to eurozone nations' being responsible for one another's debts.

Even so, the approval Thursday was among the "most important votes of this parliamentary term," Michel Barnier, the EU commissioner overseeing financial services, told lawmakers after the vote. The law will help to "improve and restore confidence our citizens have in our system, as well as the confidence of the rest of the world in our system," he said.

ECB President Mario Draghi

issued a statement hailing the vote as "a real step forward in setting up a banking union, which is a core element of a genuine economic and monetary union." Lawmakers had delayed the vote, originally scheduled for Tuesday, reflecting demands for more power to oversee the central bank. The approval came only after the president of the European Parliament, Martin Schulz, told members that Draghi had agreed to "strong parliamentary oversight" resulting in "a high degree of accountability." □

Our famous open grill



TANGO
ARGENTINE GRILL

Tango Restaurant is open 7 days a week from 4 pm till 11 pm
Indoor & outdoor seating - Large Terrace with live music

EARLY BIRD 3-Course Menu
Served between 4 pm and 7 pm
Not valid in combination with other offers

Special **\$22.⁹⁵**

Located at Arawak Garden, For reservations call (297) 586 8600 - www.tangoaruba.com

Cubans wear yellow ribbons for agents jailed in US



A poster that reads in English "Obama Give me five!" and in Spanish below "Freedom for the five" hangs on a utility post wrapped in a yellow ribbon on the 15th anniversary of the arrest of five Cuban agents in Havana, Cuba, Thursday, Sept. 12, 2013. (AP Photo/Franklin Reyes)

ANDREA RODRIGUEZ
Associated Press

HAVANA (AP) — Cubans tied yellow ribbons to homes, trees and lamp-posts across the capital

Thursday, in an organized mass campaign to press for the return of several espionage agents imprisoned in the United States on the 15th anniversary of

their arrest.

By using a symbol with deeply held cultural significance for many Americans, the campaign aims to raise support for the so-called Cuban Five in the United States where the public is largely unaware of their case, even if it's a daily cause celebre in Cuba.

"The symbolism of the yellow ribbon has a strong impact in the mind of Americans. It is a message of love that appeals to emotions," said Rene Gonzalez, the only one of the Cuban Five who has been released from prison.

"We are trying to send a message that we are human too," added Gonzalez, who has been heading the campaign.

The Five were arrested Sept. 12, 1998, and convicted three years later of spying on U.S. military installations in South Florida, as well as exile groups and politicians. Havana maintains that they were only monitoring militant exiles to prevent terror attacks in Cuba, and posed no threat to U.S. sovereignty.

Gonzalez was paroled in

2011 after serving most of his sentence. Earlier this year a U.S. judge allowed him to renounce his citizenship and return to Cuba. The other four remain in prison, with one set to walk free in February.

Thousands of ribbons could be seen around the Cuban capital Thursday, from government buildings to private homes and small businesses. A huge strip of yellow hung from the iconic lighthouse at El Morro fortress at the mouth of Havana Bay. Many people wore yellow clothing, and young schoolgirls fixed yellow ribbons in their hair.

Students held a demonstration on the steps of the University of Havana, and Cuba's association of artists and intellectuals marched from its headquarters to the U.S. Interests Section along the Malecon seafront boulevard.

"They've suffered too much already," said Jorge Luis Maresma, 50, who took part in the march.

The U.S. and Cuba do not have diplomatic relations, so they maintain interests sections instead of embas-

sies in each other's capitals.

The Cuban Five are near-constant fixtures in island state media. Havana calls them national heroes and repeatedly demands their repatriation.

Cuba, meanwhile, has held U.S. government development subcontractor Alan Gross in prison for nearly four years, convicted of crimes against the state after he was caught bringing restricted communications equipment onto the island. Talk of a possible swap has so far come to naught.

On Wednesday night, President Raul Castro and other top Cuban officials attended a concert in honor of the Cuban Five at Havana's Karl Marx Theater.

And a slick music video featuring an all-star Cuban musical cast singing "Tie a Yellow Ribbon Round the Ole Oak Tree," in the style of "We Are the World," has been airing repeatedly on state television.

The yellow ribbon has long been a symbol in the U.S. of people waiting loyally for those at risk or held captive. □

Melee at lockup leaves 1 prisoner dead in Jamaica

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP)

— Jamaican officials say one prisoner is dead and several officers have injuries after a melee broke out at a police station lockup. The Jamaica Constabulary Force says one of the police officers is in serious condition at a hospital after a prisoner repeatedly hit him in the head with a seized baton.

Police in the central town of Mandeville say officers were starting to escort

prisoners on foot from the station to a nearby court Wednesday when the prisoners "started to revolt" as they exited a holding pen. Authorities say two officers were overwhelmed and the melee spread. Police have not said how many prisoners took part in the violence.

When it was over, one prisoner was reported dead. His identity is being withheld until his family can be contacted. □

Promenade
RESTAURANT FAMILY OWNED SINCE 1997

*An European and Local touch
come and enjoy our famous.*

**4-COURSE DINNER
FOR ONLY
\$25**

- NO SERVICE CHARGE
- WALKING DISTANCE FROM LOW RISE HOTELS

*Experience
The Difference*

WON BEST CARIBBEAN INSPIRED CUISINE

FOR RESERVATION 583-8899
L.E. Smith Blvd. 160 near the low rise hotels



NO SERVICE CHARGE

Afghan army struggling in district under siege

AZAM AHMED

© 2013 New York Times

SANGIN, Afghanistan

Some days, the Afghan soldiers worry that the mud walls around their headquarters in this embattled district are barely enough to keep the Taliban out. Perhaps more problematic is that the crumbling facade appears to be keeping the soldiers in.

Nolay Base takes direct fire almost every day from the Taliban. With more forces lost here than almost any other district in the country, the Afghan soldiers seldom leave the installation and mostly refuse to conduct missions - too dangerous, they say. And when soldiers go on brief home leaves, a growing number of them desert rather than return, their commanders say.

"It's difficult to find local people who are against the Taliban," said the executive officer of the brigade here, Col. Abdulhai Neshat. "This place is like a prison."

In this corner of Helmand province, widely agreed to be the location of the most critical running battle in the country today, Afghan forces are in trouble. Although it does not reflect the broader security situation in Afghanistan, Sangin (pronounced SANG-in) offers a troubling portrait of life where the Taliban decides to make its mark and the Americans no longer fight, a situation that is likely to multiply as coalition forces completely withdraw next year.

Since launching their major offensive in late May, the Taliban have easily weathered the halfhearted attempts by the Afghans to reclaim Sangin, despite aid from international forces. In the past week alone, the Taliban have cleared out several villages, displacing as many as 1,000 people and overrunning several security checkpoints, locals and Afghan officials say. Coalition commanders are quietly growing alarmed, concerned that if the situation gets worse they may have to intervene for the second time this summer in an area officially turned over to Afghan security

control.

Since the war's beginning, the district, in the heart of Afghanistan's poppy-growing country, has been home to the fiercest fighting in the country. British and U.S. forces struggled here for years, taking heavy casualties to create even just a modest security bubble to free the district center from insurgent pressure.

Those gains have started to evaporate under the Afghans this year, as casualties mount and as a reluc-

tant bases" - building new fortified posts instead of leaving the ones they have to attack the insurgents.

Even then, they are losing ground. Afghan forces have dismantled many security checkpoints they felt they could not defend, and at least six have been captured and held by the Taliban since May. In the past week, more have been taken down, and at least four new posts have been overrun, local officials say.

Desperate to regain mo-

area of the district that borders the river.

In August, after the end of Ramadan, the Afghan commanders were nervous, expecting another major Taliban assault. To safeguard some of the more remote bases, the brigade sergeant major, Zabiullah Syeddi, assembled a quick reaction force to move farther into the hostile green zone.

As his men prepared to leave Nolay Base, taking up positions beside a row



Afghan National Army Capt. Said Kamal Sayeed keeps guard as soldiers work to recover a vehicle disabled during a Taliban ambush in Sangin, Afghanistan. Although this does not reflect the complete security situation across Afghanistan, Sangin offers a troubling portrait of the fight in a place where the Americans have gone and the Taliban have decided to fight for territory.

(Tyler Hicks/The New York Times)

tance to confront the Taliban allows the insurgents to broaden their territory. About 120 soldiers and police officers have been killed this summer, with more than double that number wounded, according to the district governor and others. Among the ranks of soldiers, attrition hovers near 50 percent, counting deaths, debilitating injuries and soldiers who never return from leave, according to the executive officer of the main unit in northern Helmand province, the 2nd Brigade of the 215th Afghan Army Corps.

While elsewhere in the country Afghan forces are taking the fight to the Taliban, U.S. commanders complain that their counterparts in Sangin have developed an "addiction to

mentum, the Afghan army has been chewing through senior officers here. The commander of the 2nd Brigade has been fired, as has the battalion commander in Sangin. Casualties have taken a toll on the leadership, too: Last month, the Taliban killed the district intelligence chief.

"Right now, Sangin is like an open space for the Taliban," said the Sangin district governor, Habibullah Shamlanai. "Anyone can enter, and anyone can leave."

Sangin became the focal point of the fighting season in late May, when the Taliban kicked off their biggest assault of the year. Massing around 600 fighters in a 36-hour blitz, the insurgents attacked about 20 Afghan patrol bases in a strategic

of idling Humvees and tow trucks, a large explosion suddenly shook the ground. Several soldiers ran to see whether they were under attack. Syeddi, a veteran soldier, swung the door of his Humvee open to investigate.

When he returned, he ran his hand over his face and shrugged. The insurgents, he said, had laid an improvised explosive device on the driveway of the brigade headquarters, in plain sight of the guard towers.

The next morning, on the way home, the convoy drove through the Sangin bazaar, the largest in northern Helmand. Fabrics, food and electronics lined the shelves of dozens of storefronts as merchants and shoppers stood along the bustling road. □

Pakistani army, Taliban swapping some prisoners

ISHTIAQ MAHSUD

Associated Press

DERA ISMAIL KHAN, Pakistan (AP)

— The Pakistani Taliban and the army exchanged prisoners this week as a confidence building measure ahead of possible peace talks, intelligence officials and militant commanders said.

The exchange included six militants and two paramilitary Frontier Corps soldiers, the officials and commanders said. It occurred in the Shawal area of the South Waziristan tribal region. The militants were subsequently taken to neighboring North Waziristan, the country's main Taliban sanctuary.

The two officials and two Taliban commanders spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to journalists.

Pakistan's military public affairs office denied the exchange occurred. But the intelligence officials and Taliban commanders provided the names of the militants who were freed and said the two paramilitary soldiers released were kidnapped by the Taliban in southwest Baluchistan province in March 2012.

The release occurred only days after Pakistan's main political parties endorsed peace negotiations with the Taliban and their allies Monday as the best way to end a decade-long insurgency that has killed thousands of people.

The exchange was meant to build confidence between the government and the militants before formal peace talks, one of the Taliban commanders said. Senior Taliban leaders are currently discussing whether to take the government up on its offer to hold negotiations, said the commander and one of his colleagues.

The Taliban said they were open to talks at the end of last year but withdrew that offer in May after the group's deputy leader was killed in a U.S. drone strike. □



Renaissance Aruba Resort & Casino hosts 'Sold Out' Electric Weekend!



ORANJESTAD— Renaissance Aruba Resort & Casino can look back on a successful Electric Festival weekend. "We want to congratulate DJ Chuckie and his whole organization for a festival that has offered not only the Aruban community but also those who visited from abroad including guests a different experience, this according to Janien Huistra, Director of Sales & Marketing for Renaissance Aruba Resort & Casino. Starting from

DJ's, VIP and Press night and celebrities that made Renaissance Aruba their main base for the weekend. From September 6th till September 8th, Renaissance hosted numerous parties and events in corporation with Electric Festival. Three days of party! Friday September 6th started with the 'Electric Pool Party' on the pool deck of Renaissance Aruba Marina Hotel with performances by DJ Rustica, DJ Myron Kelly and Music Monks,



followed by the, Artist & Press dinner on the beach at Renaissance Ocean Suites. Saturday September 7th was filled with numerous performances including a Q & A session at Renaissance Ocean Suites hosted by ADE- Amsterdam Dance event with DJ Chuckie, Mastiksoul and Mitchell Niemeyer, pool party at Renaissance Marina pool deck and on Sunday September 8th the 'Electric Festival' weekend was closed off with a tremendous close-off pool party with performances by different DJ's on the pool deck of Renaissance Aruba Marina Hotel. All packages and also the ELECTRIC SUITE by CHUCKIE were sold.

Besides all of the on-property action surrounding Electric Festival, guests who stayed on the selected floors at Renaissance



Aruba's adults-only Marina Hotel had the opportunity to experience the resort's recently renovated guestrooms. More than \$35,000 has been invested in each of the rooms to give them a contemporary residential feel and evoke a true sense of place. All renovated rooms incorporate LCD televisions and wireless internet. Renovations to all Marina Hotel guestrooms are slated to be complete by the end of 2013. For a sneak peek at Renaissance Aruba's new look and additional details about the renovation, visit <http://www.arubaresortandspa.com>. All guests who visited the hotel for the 'Electric Festival' also had the opportunity to enjoy the Blue Bar, Okeanos Spa, Renaissance Mall and a 24-hour

casino. During the Electric Festival, Renaissance Aruba created a backstage RLife artist area, the lounge consisted of high cocktail tables, a complete lounge sitting area including a bar and a awesome backdrop of the Renaissance Aruba Adult exclusive Chukie suite. The weekend was electrified by performances by Chuckie, Slash, Nero, Nicole Moudaber, Boris, Conner Cruise (the adoptive son of Actor Tom Cruise), Erick Morillo and Mastiksoul. This festival can be considered as the biggest electric music festival in Caribbean. The festival was organized in corporation with Aruba Tourism Authority, Amsterdam Dance Event, Eventpro and GM Affairs Caribbean. □



the 'prep' weeks Renaissance Aruba has shown the whole world the 'Dirty Dutch' inspired suite which served as an appetizer of what was to expect for the first edition of the 'Electric Festival'.

During the electric weekend the guests of Renaissance Aruba Resort & Casino got the opportunity to enjoy RLife LIVE exclusive performances by local and international



Basking in the Sun and Basking in Success on Aruba!



DRUIF BEACH - While every visitor to Aruba is excited to be here, there is even more excitement at the Divi Golf villas with the arrival of 12 UndercoverWear Agents and their spouses. No, an international group of spies hasn't arrived, but twelve lucky ladies and their spouses are enjoying an all-expense paid Aruban getaway courtesy of UndercoverWear - a lingerie,

spa, and romance company based out of Massachusetts. These ladies are the top sales representatives in North America and have come from across the United States and Canada to visit our paradise of Aruba. Joining this amazing group of women are their spouses and UndercoverWear President Jamie Jamitkowski. "This has been one of our BEST destinations for the

company" said Jamitkowski. "While we have taken our Agents around the world, Aruba has been the perfect mix of sun, sand, relaxation and fun. Any company looking for a destination should put Aruba at the top of their list." UndercoverWear has been helping women to change their lives for over 3 years and the company's mission is to give women an oppor-

tunity to treat themselves to something special through their products, ladies nights and phenomenal business opportunities. Of course, this includes fantastic perks such as free trips all over the world!

For many of the Agents this trip is not their first with UndercoverWear. Top Achiever Heidi Winslow explains, "I never thought that I could travel to Australia, Hawaii, Mexico, Aruba and Punta Cana just for doing what I love to do." "At UndercoverWear we believe in celebrating together and truly supporting each other as Sister Agents."

Vice President Bobbie Gingiloski has been visiting Aruba for over 2 decades and not only encouraged the company to return to her Happy Island, she also personally planned

the trip. As a result, these women have seen all that Aruba has to offer - from amazing dinners at Papiamento Restaurant to a ride with Mama on the Kukoo Kunuku bus! As a matter of fact, on nearly every tour or outing, they have met women who want to be a part of the company. Bobbi also works very hard to help other Agents build a successful business (besides planning trips). "UndercoverWear has enabled my husband and I to put our two daughters through college, build our dream home, travel the world, and help so many others achieve their goals. With the help of UndercoverWear, dreams can become your reality!"

For information on UndercoverWear visit www.undercoverwear.com.

Tonight from 8pm till 2am: Free reggae concert featuring Jamaican artist Khalilah Rose!



SAN NICOLAS - Tonight at Club Bonaire in San Nicolas, music lovers from both Aruba and abroad will gather for a one-of-a-kind open-air concert featuring none other than international recording artist Khalilah Rose, visiting all the way from Jamaica!

Khalilah Rose is an exceptional talent. Her lyrics, penned to inspire a generation, articulated to bring awareness to the struggle of all people, yet soft enough to resonate

lullabies, love music, and chants to the Almighty. Her love for humanity comes through in her music, proving the lyrics of, "Jah is Living," featuring Lutan Fyah, produced by House of Riddims, out of Austria. In 2012 Rose won "Best new female reggae artist for 2012" at the Linkage Award Show. A hot lineup of talented local bands will also be performing tonight, including Kawura, Mystical Connection and The Dreamland Band.

Beauty On The Beach

Nathly Voguera

Visiting from Venezuela
Staying at La Cabana Love's Aruba and hopes someday to make Aruba her home

WINNER OF TRIP ADVISOR'S CERTIFICATE OF EXCELLENCE 2012
Best Lobster House and International Cuisine's Restaurant

The Blue Lobster
INTERNATIONAL CUISINE & LOBSTER HOUSE
Phone: 586-3843

A Big Welcome Back To Bostonian Couple Steve and Julie O'Brien!

PALM BEACH- Bugaloe's guests of the week are Steve and Julie O'Brien from Boston MA. They have been coming to Aruba for 3 years. After landing, their first stop is a no brainer, Bugaloe! They just love the amazing view and outstanding bar staff. The reason Aruba draws them back every year is the climate and friendly people. Their idea of a perfect vacation is enjoying the sun and drinking a mojito or cold Amstel Bright at Bugaloe. Steve and Julie's favorite menu item is hard to pick, because they just like everything of the menu. Last year, Julie and Steve met a lot of great people and it was especially fun watching people take line dancing classes at the end of the pier. This is absolutely one of their favorite memories, beside the fact they love to spend their anniversary at the great place Bugaloe is. What more is there to want? The Bugaloe crew would like to thank Steve and Julie for being such loyal guests and hope to see them spend many more anniversaries at Bugaloe! ☐



FREE SHIRT FRIDAY!



Get a *Free* Alhambra T-Shirt when you earn **500 Points** today with your **Alhambra Advantage Card!**

Alhambra Hat may be substituted for t-shirt

— New —
Members Receive
\$10 FREE SLOT PLAY
when you sign up at the Advantage Club!

Where Aruba goes to play!

Open daily 10am to 4am • J.E. Irausquin Blvd #47 • 583.5000 • www.casinoalhambra.com

Must be an Alhambra Advantage member. All programs and promotions are subject to change or cancellation without prior notice.



Visit The Shops at Alhambra Casino offering a wide variety of Retail & Dining Outlets, Salon and Spa Services, Souvenirs and more.

LIVE MUSIC
Fridays in Fusion 8p-11p



The Cove Now Open 6p-2a

Alhambra Casino's Newest Restaurant & Lounge serving a variety of Soup, Salads, Sandwiches and more!

Alhambra

CASINO AND SHOPS



-  One way road
-  Right of way ahead
-  All traffic prohibited
-  No stopping or parking
-  One way road
Enter only this side
-  Right of way road
-  End of right of way road
-  Right of way at intersection
-  Oncoming traffic has
right of way
-  Stop. Right of way ahead
-  Do not pass
-  No Left turn
-  No Right turn





Canelo's Chance



In this June 24, 2013 file photo, Mexican boxer Saul "Canelo" Alvarez attends a news conference with Floyd Mayweather, at New York's Times Square.

Associated Press

Canelo's star rises to Mayweather's heights

GREG BEACHAM

AP Sports Writer

BIG BEAR LAKE, California

(AP) — When Saul Alvarez steps from a black SUV into a swath of media and fans, he keeps his head low and his gaze neutral as he calmly follows his entourage to work. Footwork, timing, focus — they're all impeccable.

"It's normal for me now," he says with a grin while getting his hands wrapped moments later. "People are always around me."

At just 23 years old, the freckle-faced Mexican fighter called Canelo has mastered the moves of a star. He usually handles his skyrocketing celebrity with calm and poise, always coming off as a hungry, serious athlete who cares little for his sport's near-requisite bragging and boasting. Just three years after the Mexican junior middleweight champion's first major U.S. fights, Alvarez (42-0-1, 30 KOs) will be under his sport's biggest spotlight on Saturday in Las Vegas where he faces Floyd Mayweather Jr., the biggest star of them all.

Continued on page 22



Boston Red Sox's Mike Carp, right, celebrates with teammates, from left, Mike Napoli, David Ortiz, and Dustin Pedroia after his 10th-inning grand slam off Tampa Bay Rays relief pitcher Roberto Hernandez during a baseball game Wednesday, Sept. 11, 2013, in St. Petersburg, Fla.

Associated Press

AL Capsules

Carp slam in 10th lifts Red Sox over Rays

The Associated Press

ST. PETERSBURG, Florida (AP)

— Mike Carp connected for a pinch-hit grand slam in the 10th inning and AL East-leading Boston beat Tampa Bay 7-3 on Wednesday night.

Carp sent a drive over the center-field fence on the first pitch from Roberto Hernandez.

It was the first pinch-hit grand slam for Boston since Kevin Millar hit one at Milwaukee on June 7, 2003.

Dustin Pedroia opened the 10th with a walk against Joel Peralta (2-7) and went to second on Shane Victorino's bunt. After David Ortiz

was intentionally walked, Hernandez replaced Peralta and walked Mike Napoli on four pitches before Carp connected for his ninth homer.

Boston closer Koji Uehara (4-0) struck out two during a perfect ninth. He has retired his last 34 batters.

James Loney homered for the Rays, who trail the Red Sox by 9½ games in the division race, to tie it in the eighth.

Tampa Bay, which has lost 13 of 17, saw its lead drop to one game over New York for the second AL wild-card spot.

YANKEES 5, ORIOLES 4

BALTIMORE (AP) — Robinson Cano hit a tiebreaking homer leading off the ninth inning, and New York also got solo shots from Alex Rodriguez and Curtis Granderson.

The Yankees moved past Baltimore and Cleveland in the AL wild-card hunt. New York has hit eight home runs in winning two of three in the four-game series that concludes Thursday night. The Yankees trailed 3-1 before Granderson homered in the fifth — New York's first hit — and Rodriguez tied it in the sixth with his 653rd career home run.

In the ninth, after Cano

connected off Tommy Hunter (4-4), Granderson tripled with one out and scored on an infield hit by Lyle Overbay.

David Robertson (5-1) worked the eighth and Mariano Rivera gave up a run-scoring single to Brian Roberts before securing his 43rd save, tied for the major league lead with Baltimore's Jim Johnson.

Chris Davis drove in two runs with a double, making him the first player in Orioles history to have 40 doubles and 40 homers in a season.

Continued on page 20

With Ainslie aboard, Oracle loses twice to New Zealand

BERNIE WILSON

AP Sports Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) —

Even with the most successful sailor in Olympic history on board, defending America's Cup champion Oracle Team USA simply can't catch Emirates Team New Zealand.

The plucky Kiwis beat Oracle Team USA twice more on Thursday, moving closer to taking the America's Cup Down Under for the second time in 18 years.

The Kiwis turned a close Race 6 into a 47-second victory.

They then put a whitewashing on Larry Ellison's syndicate in the seventh race, leading the whole way for a victory of 66 seconds.

Team New Zealand leads 6 to minus-1 and needs three more victories to reclaim the trophy for the Royal New Zealand Yacht Squadron.

The way the Kiwis are sailing, the clincher could come on Sunday on San Francisco Bay. Friday is a lay day, with Races 8 and 9 on Saturday. Two more races are scheduled for Sunday.

Oracle Team USA, owned by software billionaire Ellison of Oracle Corp., was docked two points in the biggest cheating scandal in the 162-year history of the America's Cup. It still needs to win 10 races to keep the Auld Mug at the Golden Gate Yacht Club.

The American syndicate — which has only one American on its 11-man crew — couldn't catch Kiwi skipper Dean Barker even after replacing tactician John Kosteki with British star Ben Ainslie, the most successful sailor in Olympic history.

Even though the five-leg course has just one upwind leg, the Kiwis are simply too good and too quick when the 72-foot (22-meter) catamarans are zigzagging toward the Golden Gate Bridge.

After a fierce tacking duel in Race 6 that left the grinders gasping for air, the seventh race turned into a

laugh.

Barker sped across the starting line ahead of rival Jimmy Spithill and kept his catamaran ahead the whole way. □

Emirates Team New Zealand sails along the waterfront after winning the seventh race of the America's Cup sailing event against Oracle Team USA, Thursday, Sept. 12, 2013, in San Francisco.

Associated Press



Our Valued Customer and Members of the Public

Guardian Holding Limited (GHL) is the parent company of:



GHL and all member companies are deepening our commitment towards being the most dynamic, customer-oriented and proactive financial and insurance organisations in the region. A pivotal part of our strategic initiative has been the re-design of our corporate identity, which now reflects our new brand and the repositioning of our member companies in their respective markets as a single brand. Our new local regional and international brand name is Guardian Group. This new name will be represented with a single identity and a common slogan across all of our markets.



While part of the rebranding process includes the unification of design in our signature, marketing and online presence, all existing investments, annuities, contracts, policies, medical cards and all other official documents from all the companies listed above remain valid. Additionally, the individual companies with which you have signed contracts and are transacting business remain separate legal entities, and nothing in your business interaction with them has been altered. Thus, no action on your part need be taken as a result of this rebranding process. We continue to be the strong, stable and trustworthy legal entities that have been delivering the financial peace of mind to which our customers have been accustomed to for over the last 165 years.

We have enjoyed mutually strong, fruitful and loyal relationships across the Caribbean and we look forward to continuing to serve you as Guardian Group for generations to come.

All existing telephone numbers and email addresses remain unchanged and we invite you to visit our new website, myguardiangroup.com

live easy

Snedeker zooms out in front at BMW; Tiger 3 back

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

LAKE FOREST, Illinois (AP)

— Brandt Snedeker made seven straight birdies on his way to an 8-under 63 and a one-shot lead over Zach Johnson in the third FedEx Cup playoff event at the BMW Championship on Thursday.

"You get on runs like that, you get excited for the next hole because you know something good is going to happen, because you're in such a good frame of mind and everything is going in the right direction," Snedeker said.

In this case, everything was going in — a 15-foot putt from the fringe on the 13th, another 15-footer on the next hole when he used the blade of his sand wedge to bump the ball out of the short rough, and a 40-footer from the fringe on the 17th stood out to him.

That gave him a one-shot lead over Zach Johnson in the third FedEx Cup playoff event. Tiger Woods sounded disgusted with his round of 66, mainly because he had a pair of three-putt bogeys and missed a 4-foot birdie putt over his last five holes. "I'm not exactly real happy," Woods said. "I played well, and I just didn't get much out of that round. I missed three little short ones in there and then played the par 5s even par.



Brandt Snedeker reacts after missing a birdie attempt on the eighth green during the first round of the BMW Championship golf tournament at Conway Farms Golf Club in Lake Forest, Ill., Thursday, Sept. 12, 2013.

Associated Press

That's just not very good." Steve Stricker, Charl Schwartzel and Kevin Streelman also were at 66. The opening round was mainly about the debut of Conway Farms, a Tom Fazio design north of Chicago which has a blend of strong holes and plenty of birdie opportunities on par 4s where players hit wedge for their second shot. Low scoring was predicted, and Snedeker's round was proof of that. But as the wind picked up and shifted directions, the course was far from a push-over. Rickie Fowler opened with

a pair of double bogeys, followed by a pair of bogeys. He rallied for a 77. Rory McIlroy made a double bogey — his ninth of the FedEx Cup playoffs — on his second hole, and then three-putted from 4 feet for a triple bogey and staggered to a 78. Lee Westwood, fighting severe pain in his back and ribs, had an 80. "There's a good mixture of really hard holes and really good birdie opportunities. I think that makes for exciting golf," Phil Mickelson said after opening with a 70. "That's why we have such a discrepancy in

scores."

The top 30 players in the FedEx Cup after the BMW Championship advance to the Tour Championship next week and a shot at the \$10 million prize.

Westwood is at No. 30 and likely played himself out of a trip to East Lake, though he didn't appear to be healthy enough to play. McIlroy is at No. 41 and all but took himself out of the Tour Championship. He needs to finish somewhere around seventh in the 70-man field. His 78 put him in a tie for 66th.

"It's going to be a very uphill task," McIlroy said. "I'll try to get to even par as quickly as I can."

That still might not be enough the way Snedeker is playing.

Snedeker is at No. 9 in the FedEx Cup and assured of being the first defending FedEx Cup champion to make it to the Tour Championship. He is trying to move into the top five, for those players have a clear shot at the \$10 million bonus — all they have to do is win at East Lake no matter what anyone else does.

He wouldn't have imagined this kind of round at the start of the day. He didn't warm up well and didn't feel good with the putter. Snedeker missed the 10th fairway to start his round and had to make

an 18-footer for par. He missed the 11th green and had to scramble for par. He missed a good look at birdie from the 12 feet on the next hole.

The next hour was a blur.

"When I get going good, I realize it doesn't happen all the time, so I instantly become more aggressive," he said. "I think being a good putter helps, too, because I don't really have to hit it three feet eight times in a row. Just got to hit the green sometimes and it's going to happen. I realize these runs are few and far between, so when I get on one, I try to run as hard as I can for as long as I can."

The blustery conditions kept scoring from getting out of hand, and the average score was at 71.3.

No one had less experience on the course than Mickelson, who had some personal issues earlier in the week that kept him from playing the pro-am. He didn't arrive in Chicago until Wednesday night and had never seen the course until he stood on the first tee Thursday.

Mickelson did not want to talk about what kept him away. When asked if it was a family matter, he said, "Everything is fine. I'm here now, I'm ready to play. But I just needed to be a little cautious this first round before I attack it tomorrow." □

Al Capsules

Continued from page 18



Kansas City Royals' Alex Gordon runs the bases after hitting a solo home run off Cleveland Indians starting pitcher Scott Kazmir in the first inning of a baseball game, Wednesday, Sept. 11, 2013, in Cleveland.

Associated Press

Danny Valencia tied a career high with four hits, and Roberts had three singles. Baltimore outhit New York 13-6.

Before the game, the Yankees announced that short-stop Derek Jeter would miss the rest of the season with an injured left ankle. The Yankees captain played in only 17 games this season and made four trips to the disabled list.

TIGERS 1, WHITE SOX 0

CHICAGO (AP) — Anibal Sanchez struck out 10 for Detroit.

Sanchez (14-7) allowed five hits and walked four in 7 1-3 innings while lowering his AL-best ERA to 2.50. Joaquin Benoit got three outs for his 18th save in as many

opportunities, completing a five-hitter for Detroit's 11th shutout of the season. Omar Infante drove in the game's only run with a two-out single against Matt Lindstrom (2-4) in the eighth inning.

White Sox left-hander Jose Quintana pitched seven innings of five-hit ball. He remained winless over his last five starts despite a 3.03 ERA.

ATHLETICS 18, TWINS 3

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Jed Lowrie's foul ball that turned into a two-run double after umpires changed the call highlighted a 10-run fourth inning for Oakland.

Every Oakland starter had at least one hit, one run and one RBI as the A's re-

corded a season-high 22 hits and extended their lead over Texas in the AL West to three games.

Lowrie, Coco Crisp and Stephen Vogt also homered. Yoenis Cespedes had three RBIs to help the A's score their most runs in a game since beating Boston 20-2 on Aug. 31, 2012.

With runners on second and third and three runs already in, Lowrie lined a ball down the line in the fourth that first-base umpire Bill Miller ruled foul as he danced out of the way.

Lowrie pointed at the ground inside the white line where he thought the ball hit. Oakland manager Bob Melvin came out to argue, and Lowrie was eventually

awarded a two-run double after the entire umpire crew huddled and changed the call.

Twins manager Ron Gardenhire was ejected by Miller after a long argument.

Sonny Gray (3-3), who had received fewer than four runs of support over his last six starts, struck out seven in five innings for the win. In the fifth, Josh Reddick of the A's drove a ball off the top of the wall in the right-field corner that Miller ruled a home run.

The call was overturned after a replay review — the first at Target Field this season — and Reddick had to trot back out of the dugout to second base. □

Jose Fernandez pitches Marlins past Braves 5-2

MIAMI (AP) — In his season finale, Miami Marlins rookie Jose Fernandez pitched seven innings, hit his first major league homer and engaged in a standoff with the annoyed Atlanta Braves that cleared both benches and bullpens. NL Capsules

When he had completed his eventful evening, Fernandez slowly walked off the mound one last time, removing his cap as the crowd gave him a standing ovation. Two relievers pitched the final two innings, and the woeful Marlins beat the playoff-bound Braves 5-2.

The game was the last of the season for the demonstrative 21-year-old Fernandez because he passed his 170-inning limit set by the Marlins. A top candidate for NL Rookie of the Year, he finished 12-6 with an ERA of 2.19, second-lowest in the majors behind only the Dodgers' Clayton Kershaw. Fernandez homered in the sixth inning, and after slowly circling the bases he engaged in a heated exchange with catcher Brian McCann, which prompted the other players to join them. Shoves were swapped but no punches were evident, and no one was ejected.

Mike Minor (13-7) allowed five runs, four earned, and 11 hits in six innings for Atlanta.

NATIONALS 3, METS 0

NEW YORK (AP) — Dan Haren pitched one-hit ball for six innings, Ryan Zimmerman homered and Washington earned its fifth consecutive win.

The Nationals improved to 22-9 in their late charge toward a playoff spot. They remained six games behind Cincinnati for the final NL wild-card spot with only 17 to play.

Haren (9-13) and the Washington bullpen held an overmatched New York lineup to three singles. Rafael Soriano got three outs for his 41st save.

The night was full of 9/11

tributes. Mets manager Terry Collins wore an NYPD hat during batting practice, and there were several remembrances on the field, on the scoreboard and over the public-address system of those affected by the terror attacks 12 years ago.

Zack Wheeler (7-5) gave up one run and eight hits in seven innings, striking out six and walking one. He wound up with his third loss in four starts.

DIAMONDBACKS 4, DODGERS 1

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Paul Goldschmidt had four hits and two RBIs, helping the Diamondbacks snap a five-game skid against the Dodgers.

Patrick Corbin (14-6) ended a three-game losing streak while improving to 2-0 in three starts at Dodger Stadium. The left-hander allowed one run and eight hits in 6 1-3 innings.

Brad Ziegler pitched the ninth for his 10th save in 12 chances.

Dodgers left-hander Hyun-Jin Ryu (13-6) gave up three runs and 10 hits — his second-most this season — in his first start since Aug. 30. The left-hander missed his scheduled start last Friday because of a stiff back.

Los Angeles got its only run on Yasiel Puig's 16th homer in the seventh.

CARDINALS 5, BREWERS 1

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Matt Adams hit a two-run homer in St. Louis' four-run eighth inning, helping the Cardinals to their fifth consecutive win.

Matt Carpenter and Matt Holliday had two hits apiece for the Cardinals, who maintained a one-game lead over Pittsburgh in the NL Central.

Brewers reliever Brandon Kintzler (3-2) was charged with three runs and recorded two outs.

Carlos Beltran's sacrifice fly off Michael Gonzalez scored Carpenter to give the Cardinals a 2-1 lead. An error by catcher Jonathan Lucroy allowed Jon Jay to

Miami Marlins starting pitcher Jose Fernandez, center, is surrounded by Atlanta Braves players at home plate after an altercation broke out when Fernandez crossed home plate after hitting a solo home run in the sixth inning during a baseball game, Wednesday, Sept. 11, 2013, in Miami.

Associated Press

score and Adams followed with his 12th homer.

Trevor Rosenthal (2-3) had a hitless eighth inning for the win.

REDS 6, CUBS 0

CINCINNATI (AP) — Devin Mesoraco homered for the first time in a month, Jack Hannahan added his first career pinch-hit homer and the Reds avoided a sweep by the last-place Cubs.

Mesoraco broke out of his slump with three hits as the Reds closed a 7-3 homestand.

Mike Leake (13-6) allowed four hits and walked four in 5 2-3 innings en route to a career high in wins, despite humid conditions and an 84-degree temperature at gametime.

Cubs right-hander Jeff Samardzija (8-12) also pitched 5 2-3 innings and was charged with six runs and eight hits.

Mesoraco hit a solo drive in the fourth for his first homer in 25 games since he hit two against St. Louis on Aug. 3. Hannahan connected for a three-run shot in the sixth.

PHILLIES 4, PADRES 2

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Cliff Lee pitched eight sharp innings and Freddy Galvis had three hits for Philadelphia.

Lee (13-6) allowed two runs and five hits, struck out nine and walked one. It was the second straight eight-inning outing and fourth in the last six starts for Lee, who pounded his glove and skipped toward the dugout after fanning Jedd Gyorko to end the eighth. Gyorko and Tommy Medica homered for the Padres, who had won four in a row. □



Caribbean Cinemas
100% Digital HD
MEGAPLEX 8
caribbeancinemas.com/aruba
SEPTEMBER 12 - 18

NEW THIS WEEK!

INSIDIOUS 2
CHAPTER 2
MON - THURS 8:15 | 10:40
FRI - SAT 8:15 | 10:40
SUN & HOL 8:15
MON - THURS 4:50 | 7:10 | 9:35
FRI 4:50 | 7:10 | 9:35 | 11:55
SAT 2:30 | 4:50 | 7:10 | 9:35 | 11:55
SUN & HOL 2:30 | 4:50 | 7:10 | 9:35

Blue Jasmine
MON - THURS 6:45 | 7:05 | 9:25
FRI 4:45 | 7:05 | 9:25 | 11:45
SAT 2:30 | 4:45 | 7:05 | 9:25 | 11:45
SUN & HOL 2:30 | 4:45 | 7:05 | 9:25

RIDDICK
WITH DUTCH SUBTITLES
MON - THURS 8:40
FRI - SAT 8:40 | 11:20
SUN & HOL 8:40
MON - THURS 4:10 | 6:45 | 9:20
FRI 4:10 | 6:45 | 9:20 | 11:55
SAT 2:00 | 4:10 | 6:45 | 9:20 | 11:55
SUN & HOL 2:00 | 4:10 | 6:45 | 9:20

GETAWAY
MON - THURS 7:00 | 9:15
FRI - SAT 7:00 | 9:15 | 11:30
SUN & HOL 7:00 | 9:15

ALSO SHOWING!

ZAMBEZIA
MON - FRI 4:55
SAT, SUN & HOL 2:50 | 4:55

ELYSIUM
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
MON - THURS 9:00
FRI - SAT 9:00 | 11:25
SUN & HOL 9:00

WE'RE THE MILLERS
MON - THURS 4:35 | 7:00 | 9:30
FRI 4:35 | 7:00 | 9:30 | 11:55
SAT 2:10 | 4:35 | 7:00 | 9:30 | 11:55
SUN & HOL 2:10 | 4:35 | 7:00 | 9:30

ONE DIRECTION THIS IS US: 3D
MON - FRI 4:30 | 6:45
SAT, SUN & HOL 2:15 | 4:30 | 6:45

PLANES
MON - FRI 4:20 | 6:30
SAT, SUN & HOL 2:10 | 4:20 | 6:30

THE SMURFS 2
MON - FRI 6:00
SAT, SUN & HOL 3:40 | 6:00

STARTING NEXT WEEK SEPTEMBER 19 | **BATTLE OF THE YEAR**

Download our NEW APP

Palm Beach Plaza | Aruba | 586-0074



TOURIST GO FLEA MARKET

L.G. SMITH Blvd. LOOK FOR THE ORANGE FLAGS & TENTS

* ARUBA ARTS-CRAFTS-SOUVENIRS-WATCHES - SUNGLASSES-SILVER-JADE-JEWELRY -
DRESSES-BAGS-BRACELETS-CUBAN CIGARS - T-SHIRTS-SHORTS-WALLETS-DELFT BLUE
OVER 100.000 ARTICLES

**BE SMART, DO WHAT LOCALS DO BEST SHOPPING-LOWEST PRICES EVER
A VERY NICE, COSY AND SAFE SHOPPING CENTER, ASK ANYONE**

OPEN SAT. & SUN. 8AM - 6PM

CALL: 7345454 / 7365454

Armstrong returns Olympic bronze medal

JIM VERTUNO,
AP Sports Writer

AUSTIN, Texas (AP)—Lance Armstrong has returned his Olympic bronze cycling medal, the latest fallout from his confession to using performance-enhancing drugs.

Armstrong won the medal at the 2000 Sydney Olympics.

The International Olympic Committee in January vacated the medal Armstrong won in the road time trial.

Armstrong tweeted on Thursday that he gave it back and a U.S. Olympic Committee spokesman released a statement confirming its return.

Armstrong's tweet included a photo of the medal and its blue ribbon along with the message: "The 2000 Bronze is back in possession of @usolympics and will be in Switzerland asap."

Armstrong declined further comment.

The IOC has said it will not reallocate Armstrong's bronze medal, just as cycling's ruling body decided not to declare any winners for the Tour de France titles once held by the American.

Spanish rider Abraham Olano Manzano, who finished fourth in Sydney, will not be upgraded and the bronze medal will be left vacant in Olympic records. □

Earnshaw gives Toronto FC to 1-1 draw with Fire

TORONTO (AP) — Robert Earnshaw scored midway through the first half to give Toronto FC to a 1-1 draw with the Chicago Fire in Major League Soccer on Wednesday. Dilly Duka opened the scoring for the Fire in the 20th minute with a looping ball that skipped over teammate Mike Magee's foot and past Toronto 'keeper Joe Bendik. Earnshaw equalized three minutes later as Toronto extended its winless streak to six matches. Earnshaw left the game shortly after with a possible injury.



Toronto FC's Robert Earnshaw chases down the ball against the Chicago Fire during the first half of an MLS soccer game in Toronto on Wednesday, Sept. 11, 2013.

Associated Press

Bendik also had to make a game-saving stop from

close range in the 80th minute on a shot by for-

mer Toronto player Quincy Amarikwa. □

Canelo

Continued from page 18

Alvarez has studied Mayweather (44-0, 26 KOs) extensively, but not for tips on his opponent's taunting, his spendthrift public persona. Canelo's bankable celebrity got him into this lucrative fight, but he plans to win it by relying on the natural skills and acquired work ethic that propelled him here.

"I've always said I've never fought to my potential," Alvarez said. "I've never fought at 100 percent of my ability. My opponents have never brought that out in me. I think Floyd is going to be the one who brings it out."

Alvarez prepared for the bout in high-altitude Big Bear, following the example of countless fighters who have taken themselves away from celebrity distractions by going up into the San Bernardino Mountains. He worked out

in a Spartan, one-ring boxing gym in the converted garage of a house owned by Sugar Shane Mosley, the long-reigning champion who has lost to both men in Saturday's bout.

While Alvarez works out with trainer Chepo Reynoso and a retinue of coaches, Alvarez's brothers and assorted hangers-on, the gym stereo blares doo-wop, 12-bar blues and '60s bubble-gum pop records. Ranchera and hip-hop, the dual staples of many modern boxers, don't make the playlist until later in the workout.

While he's a veteran in many rules of his game outside the ring, Alvarez is still too young to be afraid of trying new things. For the first time in his career, he prepared for Mayweather by hiring a strength coach, a nutritionist and a chef.

"I think we're putting together a good game plan to beat Mayweather, and up here we have no distractions," Reynoso said



Boxer Canelo Alvarez speaks during a press conference in Las Vegas, Wednesday, Sept. 11, 2013. Alvarez is scheduled to fight on Saturday against Floyd Mayweather, for Mayweather's WBA Super World and Alvarez's WBC junior middleweight titles.

Associated Press

through a translator. "We worked harder than ever for this fight. I can't explain it now, but you're going to see the results."

Alvarez betrays no real mental weaknesses in his preparations for Mayweather — only a quiet confidence, and no over-compensation for the daunting task in front of him. Instead, Alvarez quietly agrees with Reynoso's

opinions about his advantages, insisting he can do things nobody has ever done against Mayweather. Canelo is an accurate puncher carrying more power than most of Mayweather's previous opponents. His percussive right hand is among the most dangerous weapons in boxing — as several injured sparring partners could attest this summer. His jab

work is more disciplined and effective than most of Mayweather's recent opponents, which could mess with the veteran champion's game plan.

He is naturally bigger than Mayweather, who easily could have more than a 10-pound (4 1/2-kilogram) weight disadvantage on fight night against Alvarez after the Mexican star rehydrates from the 152-pound (69-kilogram) limit.

But Alvarez's most important asset, he believes, is his mind.

"A lot of people get impatient and try to take his head off," Alvarez said. "That's when they start missing punches, and that's when Floyd can beat you with counterpunches. I'm not going to fall into that. I already know that's what he wants you to do."

Although Mosley turned down an invitation from Reynoso to spar with Alvarez, the fight fascinates him as a spectator. □

TOURIST GO FLEA MARKET

L.G. SMITH Blvd. LOOK FOR THE ORANGE FLAGS & TENTS
ARUBA ARTS-CRAFTS-SOUVENIRS-WATCHES - SUNGLASSES-SILVER-JADE-JEWELRY -
DRESSES-BAGS-BRACELETS-CUBAN CIGARS - T-SHIRTS-SHORTS - WALLETS - DELFT BLUE

TELL & BRING YOUR FRIENDS

TRANSPORTATION EASY CONSTANT PUBLIC BUSSES - TAXI'S - TOUR BUSES OR WITH YOUR OWN CAR.

SOMETHING TO SELL?

WE HAVE TENT & TABLE FOR YOU. CALL: 7345454 / 7365454

OPEN
SATURDAY & SUNDAY
from 8am - 6pm.
Stay a few hours. TAKE EXTRA CASH

BBQ
STARTS FROM \$5.75
BABY BACKRIBS
NOW ALSO AT THE
ARVEFA MARKET
LOOK FOR THE ORANGE
TENT FLAG.
L.G. SMITH BOULEVARD
ARVEFA STILL
THE BEST PAINT
AND ARUBAN FACTORY

Review: Slick iOS 7 shines on Apple's new iPhones

MICHAEL LIEDTKE

AP Technology Writer
CUPERTINO, California

(AP) — One of the best things about Apple's latest iPhones is the slick new iOS 7 software that runs the devices. But that souped-up operating system could end up hurting sales because the free software upgrade will also work on iPhones released since 2010, giving owners of the older models less incentive to buy Apple's newest products. Perhaps unwittingly, even Apple's software boss Craig Federighi alluded to this potential problem while he was bragging about iOS 7 at the company's unveiling of its new phones Tuesday. He predicted that anyone who elects to install the software will feel "like they're getting an all-new device." I understood what Federighi meant once I was able to see the iOS 7's improvements in action on Apple's two new iPhones, the 5C and the 5S. Although Apple announced iOS 7 at a conference three months ago, Tuesday marked the first time the company allowed reporters to experience the software hands-on.

Although the iPhone 5C is less expensive than its predecessor, the iPhone 5, iOS 7 almost made it look fancier than previous generations. As an iPhone 5 owner, I was feeling a bit envious until I remembered that I'll be able to spiff up my device, too, when the software is released on Sept. 18. The operating system will work on the iPhone 4 and later models, iPad 2s and subsequent versions, and the iPod Touch that came out late last year. iOS 7 looks much different than previous versions of the operating system be-

cause it no longer displays iPhone apps as three-dimensional, embossed objects meant to mirror their real-world counterparts. The icons instead are flatter and more colorful.

Any significant change in design typically upsets users familiar with the old way of doing things, but I suspect the complaints about iOS 7 will be muted unless there are some terrible bugs in the software that weren't evident during the brief time that I was given to experiment.

I am fairly certain most people who download iOS 7 are going to be pleased. The software makes it easier to navigate around an iPhone and adds some compelling new features. The additions include the ability to stream music through an advertising-supported service called iTunes Radio and five free apps that used to cost consumers anywhere from 99 cents to \$4.99 apiece. The free apps are Apple's photo-editing tool, iPhoto, and video-editing program, iMovie, as well as work-oriented apps called Pages, Numbers and Keynote. Apple doesn't appear to be removing any popular apps built into the operating system, as best as I could tell. The company did that last year when it replaced Google's mapping app with its own navigation system only to be ridiculed for misguiding users with shoddy directions. Apple isn't bringing back Google Maps with iOS 7, but it is promising that its alternative is getting better. The software upgrade also will make it easier to take better pictures on the iPhone and automatically sort photos into different categories to denote particular events. I particularly



Craig Federighi, senior vice president of Software Engineering at Apple, speaks about the new iOS 7 release in Cupertino, Calif., Tuesday, Sept. 10, 2013. Associated Press

liked a feature that lets you control how the camera operates by toggling between options at the bottom of the screen with the swipe of a finger. Once the camera is open in iOS 7, the choices include taking a square, panoramic or standard photo. The bottom-of-the screen controls also include an option to switch to video mode. When taking a picture in iOS 7, photographers can also choose a filter to use as they snap the photo rather than waiting to touch up the shot later. When shooting video, shots can be zoomed in while recording. I can't do any of that on my iPhone 5 because it is still powered by iOS 6. The new system also makes it easier to see and scroll

through apps more quickly by clicking twice on the home button. When this action is performed in iOS 6, the iPhone apps are spread across a horizontal row at the bottom of the screen. Do the same thing in iOS 7, and the apps are transformed into large tiles displayed horizontally across the center of the screen in an effort to help users do more multitasking on the iPhone. Apple is also making it easier to access frequently used controls such as and airplane mode by enabling users to pull up the panel from the bottom of the display screen instead of finding and pressing a settings option. Other than the new software, the iPhone 5C isn't

anything special, as one might expect from a cheaper phone.

The only thing that really distinguishes the 5C from the iPhone 5 is that it's housed in plastic instead of aluminum. Some consumers will no doubt like the plastic alternative because it comes in five colors: green, blue, yellow, pink and white. The price also may be more appealing, with the 5C starting at \$99 with a two-year wireless contract, a \$100 discount from iPhone models released in previous years. A higher-end iPhone dubbed the 5S boasts several advantages that aren't available on any other model. The coolest innovation allows you to use your fingerprint to unlock the iPhone 5S instead of relying on a four-digit code that has to be repeatedly typed in. The fingerprint reader can also be used to access Apple's apps and iTunes store instead of a password.

Apple CEO Tim Cook thinks the fingerprint scanner will revolutionize technology security. "There is going to be a whole new generation of kids who grow up not knowing what a password is," Cook predicted during a brief discussion with a small group of reporters after he left the room where Apple was demonstrating its new iPhones. I found the fingerprint scanner, called "Touch ID," simple to use during my brief test of the 5S. It just took less than a minute for the phone to record the fingerprint on my thumb, instructing me along the way. Once my prints were in the phone's memory bank, all I had to do was lightly press on the home button when the 5S was locked in sleep mode and it quickly opened. □

Stocks post gains as fear of volatile September fades

KEN SWEET

AP Markets Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — September was supposed to be ugly for financial markets. The prospects of a U.S. attack on Syria and less economic stimulus from the Federal Reserve only added to investor worries going into September, which historically is the worst month of the year for stocks.

Instead, the Dow Jones industrial average is up 3.3 percent so far this month, even after it slipped 26 points, to 15,300.64 on Thursday. The Standard & Poor's 500 index is up 3.1 percent this month, after falling six points Thursday to 1,683.42. The S&P 500 rose for seven straight days before Thursday, its longest winning streak since July. The Dow climbed three straight days before Thursday's loss.

Another positive sign for markets is the CBOE Volatility Index, sometimes referred to as "Wall Street's fear gauge." When the VIX, as it is better known, moves higher, it means investors expect more volatility in the next 30 days. It is down more than 15 percent this month. Gold, another signal of investor fear, is down more than five percent.

What happened to gloomy September?

The recent de-escalation of the U.S.-Syria crisis combined with a calming in the bond market has provided fuel to lift stocks, market strategists and investors said. Expectations of stronger corporate earnings are also helping out stocks, investors said.

While the ultimate fate of a U.S. attack on Syria is unknown, it looks like an immediate missile strike isn't happening soon.

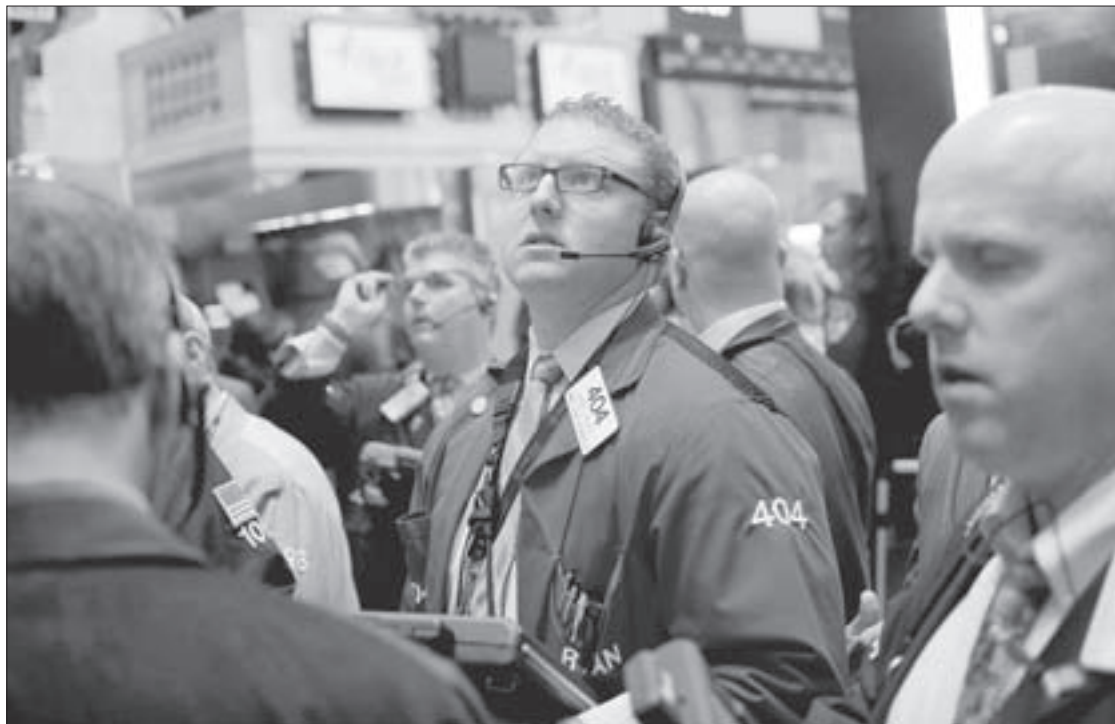
Syrian President Bashar Assad said Thursday his government has agreed to surrender its chemical weapons in response to a Russian proposal.

"Syria is still there as a concern, but it's starting to de-escalate," said Richard Sichel, chief investment officer at Philadelphia Trust Co., which manages \$1.9

ing bonds most of the summer, Kinahan said, as investors prepared for the Fed to quickly wind down a bond-purchase program that had kept interest rates low for so long. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note soared from 1.63 percent in early May to 3 percent last week. Bond prices fall as yields rise.

mark, the selloff of the notes slowed, along with the rise of the yield.

Most investors have become more comfortable with the Fed's plan and do not believe the central bank will reduce its bond purchases as much as originally anticipated, several investors said. The Fed is buying \$85 billion of bonds



Traders work on the floor at the New York Stock Exchange in New York. Stocks posted gains again on Thursday, Sept. 12, 2013, with a U.S. attack on Syria no longer appearing imminent.

(AP Photo/Seth Wenig)

billion in assets.

While Syria's economy is too small to have an impact on the global economy, the country is important for oil markets since a conflict there could escalate and jeopardize the flow of crude from the Middle East.

"We're no longer looking at the worst-case scenario," said Burt White, chief investment officer with LPL Financial. It's also important to look at what's happened in the bond market the last couple of weeks, said J.J. Kinahan, chief strategist at TD Ameritrade. Investors had been dump-

Nearly every major debt investment in the U.S. is pegged to the 10-year note, from rates on corporate loans and home mortgages to student loans. When yields rise, it raises the cost of lending for everyone — potentially cutting into corporate profits, weighing down the stock and housing markets, and ultimately affecting the economy. "The yield on the 10-year Treasury may be the most important number in the entire world," White said.

But after the 10-year note struck that psychologically-important three percent

each month. It could limit purchases to \$75 billion or \$80 billion a month, instead of \$55 billion. "The bond market got ahead of itself and expected a big exit by the Fed and frankly that hasn't happened and it's unlikely it's going to happen," White said.

There are other signs of a calmer bond market. Verizon Communications sold \$49 billion in bonds Wednesday, the biggest bond sale ever by a corporation. Demand was robust as bond investors placed more than \$100 billion in orders for Verizon's offering. □

Oil rises 1% over doubts on Syria fix

The Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The price of oil rose 1 percent Thursday as doubts persisted about a diplomatic resolution to the crisis in Syria. U.S. benchmark oil for October delivery gained \$1.04 to close \$108.60 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Oil rose as high as \$109.16 earlier.

Oil fell \$3.14 a barrel on Monday and Tuesday, the result of diplomatic efforts to avoid a U.S. strike against Syria. The U.S. has threatened military action against President Bashar Assad, whom the U.S. says is responsible for a deadly chemical weapons attack against civilians.

On Thursday, there was more skepticism about whether Syria and its ally Russia could agree with the U.S. on a plan for Assad's government to turn over its chemical weapons. Already there was disagreement over how soon the Syrians needed to start accounting for their stockpiles.

"We feel that a diplomatic solution acceptable to all parties will prove elusive and that the possibility of some form of US military strike will gradually be increasing going forward," wrote Jim Ritterbusch, president of energy consultancy Ritterbusch and Associated, in a note to clients.

Syria is not a major oil producer, but oil traders say the possibility of a wider conflict could interrupt production and shipping routes in the Middle East and cause prices to rise.

Brent, the benchmark for international crudes, was up \$1.32 to \$112.82 a barrel on the ICE Futures exchange in London.

In other energy futures trading on Nymex:

— Wholesale gasoline rose 5 cents to \$2.76 per gallon.

— Natural gas gained 7 cents to \$3.64 per 1,000 cubic feet.

— Heating oil added 5 cents to \$3.12 per gallon. □

Disney plans to boost buybacks to \$6-\$8 billion

NEW YORK (AP) — The Walt Disney Co. will buy back between \$6 billion and \$8 billion of its shares next year, the media company's chief financial officer said Thursday.

That's up from the \$4 billion a year that Disney has been spending on repurchasing its shares, CFO Jay

Rasulo said during an investor conference.

"Given our confidence in the overall company and where our share price sits in the marketplace we intend to significantly increase our buyback next year," Rasulo said. The company may borrow some money to fund the buybacks to-

ward the end of the year, but not enough to bring its credit rating down, he said. Disney's shares spiked following Rasulo's comments, and gained more than 2.4 percent, or \$1.55, to close at \$65.49 Thursday. Disney's upcoming projects will provide growth for the company, said Rasulo. After

buying Lucasfilm last year for \$4 billion, Disney is set to release its first "Star Wars" film in 2015. It also expects to open a new theme park resort in Shanghai during the same year. Rasulo made his comments at a Bank of America Merrill Lynch conference in Beverly Hills, California. □

Twitter aptly announces it will go public via tweet



Photo shows a Twitter icon on the display of a smartphone in Berlin. The company tweeted Thursday, Sept. 12, 2013, that it has "confidentially submitted an S-1 to the SEC for a planned IPO." Twitter is taking advantage of federal legislation passed last year that allows companies with less than \$1 billion in revenue in its last fiscal year to avoid submitting public IPO documents. (AP Photo/dpa, Soeren Stache)

**BARBARA ORTUTAY
MICHAEL LIEDTKE
ASSOCIATED PRESS**

NEW YORK (AP) — Twitter is going public. The short messaging service aptly tweeted on Thursday it has filed confidential documents for an initial public offering of stock.

But the documents are sealed, as Twitter is taking advantage of federal legislation passed last year that allows companies with less than \$1 billion in revenue in its last fiscal year to avoid submitting public IPO documents.

San Francisco-based Twitter Inc. posted on its official Twitter account Thursday afternoon that it has "confidentially submitted an S-1 to the SEC for a planned IPO." The confidentiality will likely help Twitter avoid

the public hoopla that surrounded the initial public offerings of other high-profile social networking companies, including Facebook Inc., which went public in May 2012.

Twitter's IPO has been long expected. The company has been ramping up its advertising products and working to boost ad revenue in preparation.

Most of Twitter's revenue comes from advertising. Research firm eMarketer estimates that Twitter will make \$582.8 million in worldwide ad revenue this year, up from \$288.3 million in 2012. By comparison, Facebook had ad revenue of \$1.6 billion in the April-June quarter of this year. By 2015, Twitter's annual ad revenue is expected to hit \$1.33 billion. □

Yahoo's stock tops \$30 for first time in 5 1/2 years

**MICHAEL LIEDTKE
Associated Press**

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Yahoo is getting closer to propelling its stock beyond the price that Microsoft offered to buy the Internet company in 2008, a feat that seemed unattainable until Yahoo hired Marissa Mayer as its CEO last year. The stock crossed a symbolically important milestone Thursday when it topped \$30 for the first time since February 2008, when Yahoo co-founder and then-CEO Jerry Yang was drawing up ways to fend off an unsolicited takeover bid from Microsoft Corp. The bid was later withdrawn after several months of fruitless negotiations. Yang insisted that Yahoo Inc. would be worth more than the \$31 per share that Microsoft initially offered, and didn't waver even after the bid was raised to \$33 per share. After Microsoft scrapped the proposed deal, Yahoo's stock went into a prolonged slide. It fell as low as \$8.94 under the direction of five different CEOs before Mayer defected from a top ex-

ecutive job at Google Inc. in July 2012.

Since then, Yahoo's stock has nearly doubled in value as Mayer has taken steps to boost sagging employee morale, spent more than \$1.2 billion on mostly small acquisitions, redesigned key products and used the proceeds from a windfall investment in Chinese Internet company Alibaba to return more than \$3 billion to shareholders.

Yahoo got its latest lift after Mayer appeared at a technology conference late Wednesday and announced that the company's online services are now attracting about 800 million monthly users, a 20 percent increase since her arrival.

The figure doesn't include traffic that Yahoo picked up when it bought the popular Internet blogging site Tumblr for \$1.1 billion earlier this year.

Investors are betting that a larger audience will translate into more advertising and profit for Yahoo, although Mayer still hasn't been able to significantly boost the company's rev-

enue even as marketers pour more money into Google's websites and Facebook Inc.'s online social network. In her Wednesday appearance,

Analysts and Mayer herself both say Yahoo's resurgent stock is primarily being driven by a \$1 billion investment made in Alibaba in 2005. That deal was nego-



A sign in front of Yahoo! headquarters in Sunnyvale, Calif. Yahoo is getting closer to propelling its stock beyond the price that Microsoft offered to buy the Internet company at in 2008. (AP Photo/Marcio Jose Sanchez)

Mayer said it will probably take three years to get Yahoo's ad revenue growing at a robust rate again. Yahoo's stock nevertheless traded as high as \$30.27 on Thursday on heavy volume. In afternoon trading, the gains pared slightly, and the stock ended up closing at \$29.65, up 46 cents.

tiated by Yang while Terry Semel was Yahoo's CEO.

"There are certainly some smart investments that I owe to my predecessors," Mayer said Wednesday during her appearance at a conference presented by AOL Inc.'s TechCrunch blog. "Very notably, Jerry Yang's investment in Al-

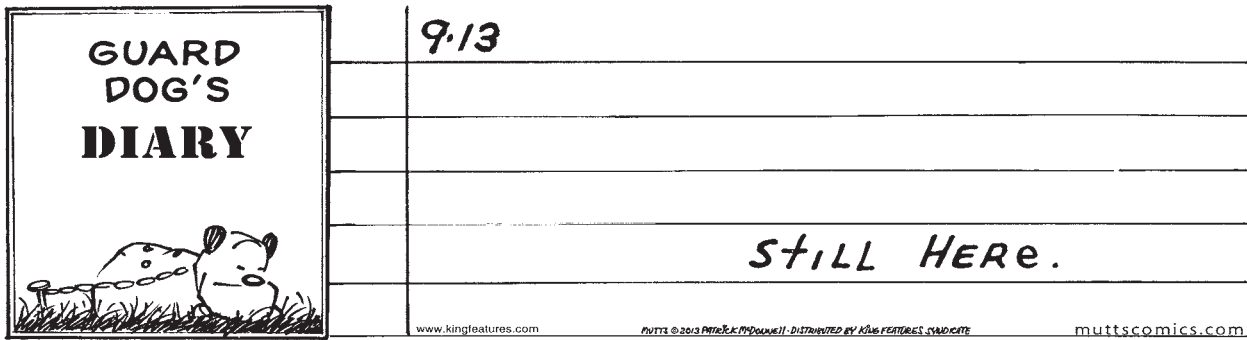
ibaba is something that people are very excited about."

Alibaba has emerged as an Internet powerhouse in the world's most populous country, turning Yahoo's holdings into a gold mine. Yahoo already reaped \$7.6 billion by selling half its stake in Alibaba last year and analysts have estimated its remaining investment could be worth another \$10 billion to \$20 billion during the next few years. Yahoo so far has funneled \$3.6 billion of the Alibaba proceeds into buying back 190 million of its shares.

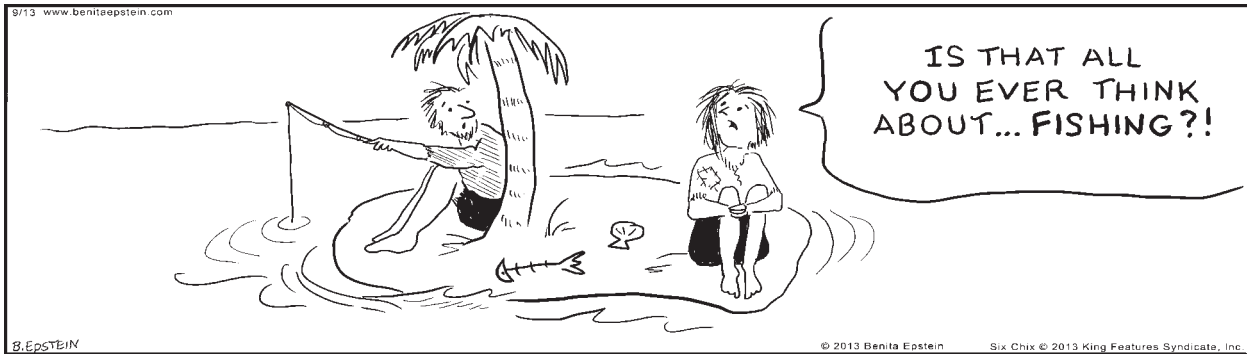
Yang also may draw some measure of vindication if Yahoo's stock price exceeds Microsoft's takeover bid. He became an object of scorn among many shareholders who argued that Yahoo would be hard-pressed to build a company that would be worth more than what Microsoft was willing to pay.

The harsh criticism contributed to Yang's decision to step down as Yahoo's CEO in 2009. Yang resigned from the company's board last year. □

Mutts



6 Chix



Blondie



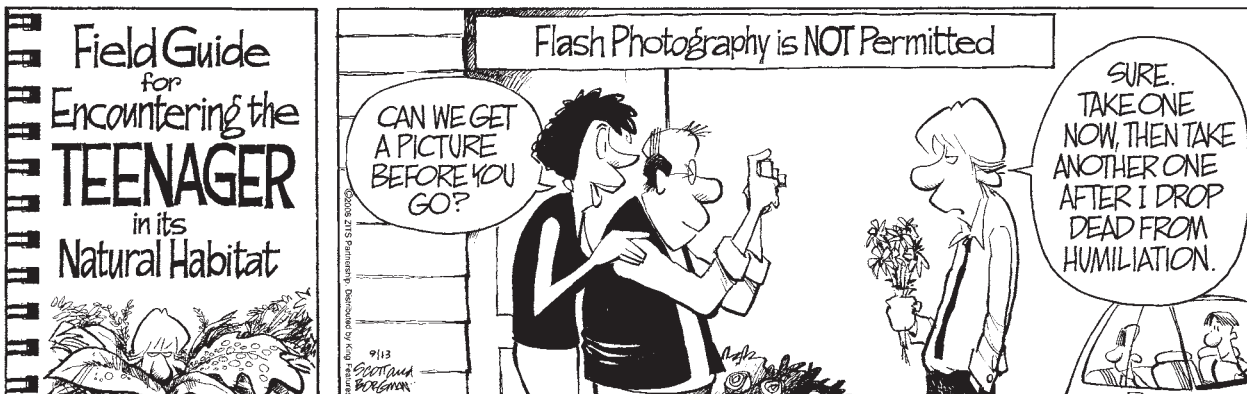
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

		8		4		3		
	9						2	
			6		7			
		1	3		6	5		
			4	7	9			
		3	1		2	8		
			2		8			
7							6	
	5		3		4			

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

9/13

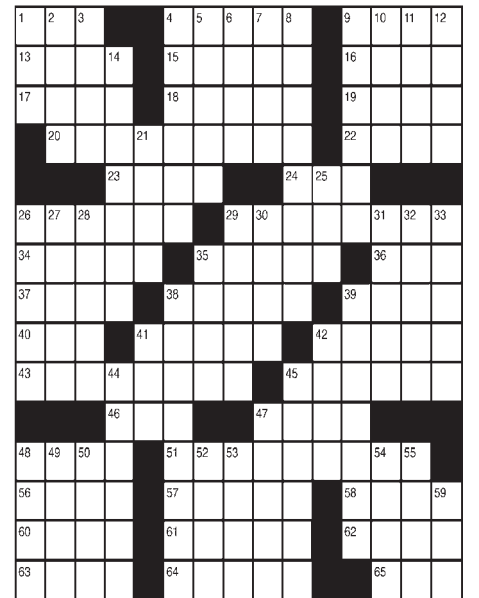
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

9	7	6	3	8	4	1	5	2
2	4	8	1	6	5	9	3	7
3	5	1	7	9	2	4	8	6
8	1	3	2	7	6	5	4	9
5	9	2	4	1	3	6	7	8
4	6	7	9	5	8	3	2	1
1	2	9	5	4	7	8	6	3
7	8	4	6	3	9	2	1	5
6	3	5	8	2	1	7	9	4

ACROSS

- 1 Home for swine
4 Furious
9 Grand __; home run with bases loaded
13 Screwball
15 Evening hour
16 Part of the ear
17 __ of Wight
18 Train tracks
19 Out of work
20 "Get lost!"
22 Computer tech, perhaps
23 Eskimo __; ice cream treats
24 Speedometer letters
26 Spinning
29 Customary; done regularly
34 Gregorian __; monks' intonation
35 Chivalrous
36 Caribbean or Yellow
37 Orange drink
38 India's currency
39 __ up; become cheerful again
40 Make a choice
41 Gave up, as land
42 Physician Pierre or wife Marie
43 Shy
45 Defeats
46 Coloring agent
47 Tub activity
48 Bangkok native
51 Evaluating
56 To the __; fully
57 Uplifting tunes
58 Optometrist's concerns
60 Dismantle
61 Upper class
62 Genuine
63 Celebrity
64 Capitol roof features, often
65 Attempt
- 2 Fling
3 Egg's center
4 Golda Meir's nation
5 __ up on; studies
6 Enthusiastic
7 Tattle
8 Musical group
9 Trivial; small
10 Mother __; rich ore deposit
11 Competent
12 Unassuming
14 Holding on to
21 Soil
25 Lemon meringue __
26 Thespian
27 Mold; form
28 Desires
29 Remained confident
30 Still in the sack
31 Drug addicts
32 Eagle's nest
33 Geneva and Huron
35 Unclothed
- DOWN
- 1 Zoom down snowy slopes



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

9/13/13

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

S	T	R	U	M	S	C	A	M	E	V	E	S
L	E	O	N	E	H	A	L	E	M	A	L	L
O	A	T	H	S	O	M	I	T	P	L	E	A
P	L	E	A	S	U	R	E	E	T	H	I	C
				N	I	N	E	B	R	E	A	D
B	A	N	E	D	V	A	S	E	S			
O	W	E	R	U	L	E	R	M	I	K	E	S
N	E	E	R	E	A	G	E	R	S	N	A	P
A	D	D	E	R	C	A	D	E	T	E	R	R
				S	I	R	E	N	C	O	M	E
S	E	C	E	D	E	D	J	U	D	O		
I	R	O	N	E	D	B	I	R	D	B	A	T
D	O	N	T	D	E	L	L	L	I	B	R	A
E	D	G	E		E	V	I	L	E	L	L	E
D	E	A	D	N	A	P	S		R	E	E	K

(c) 2013 Tribune Content Agency, LLC
All Rights Reserved.

9/13/13

- 38 Showed
39 More aggressive
41 Weep
42 Portable beds
44 Magazine bigwig
45 Damsels
47 Davis or Midler
- 48 Therefore
49 Helpful clue
50 Actor Alan __
52 Grain storage tower
53 Slender
54 Putin's "No!"
55 Equipment
59 __ as a fox

More people exercise while they work

SAM HANANEL
Associated Press
WASHINGTON (AP) —

Glued to your desk at work? Cross that off the list of excuses for not having the time to exercise.

A growing number of people are standing, walking and even cycling their way through the workday at treadmill desks, stand-up desks or other moving workstations. Others are forgoing chairs in favor of giant exercise balls to stay fit. Walking on a treadmill while making phone calls and sorting through emails means "being productive on two fronts," said Andrew Lockerbie, senior vice president of benefits at Brown & Brown, a global insurance consulting firm.

Lockerbie can burn 350 calories a day walking three to four miles on one of two treadmill desks that his company's Indianapolis office purchased earlier this year.

"I'm in meetings and at my desk and on the phone all day," he said. "It's great to be able to have an option at my work to get some physical activity while I'm actually doing office stuff. You feel better, you get your blood moving, you think clearly."

Treadmill desks designed for the workplace are normally set to move at 1 to 2 mph, enough to get the heart rate up but not too fast to distract from reading or talking on the phone comfortably.

It's been a decade since scientific studies began to show that too much sitting can lead to obesity and increase the risk of developing diabetes, high blood pressure and heart disease. Even going to the gym three times a week doesn't offset the harm of being

sedentary for hours at a time, said Dr. James Levine, an endocrinologist at the Mayo Clinic.

"There's a glob of information that sitting is killing us," Levine said. "You're basically sitting yourself into a coffin."

More companies are intrigued by the idea of helping employees stay healthy, lose weight and reduce stress — especially if it means lower insurance costs and higher productivity, said Levine, an enthusiastic supporter of the moving workstations.

"Even walking at 1 mile an hour has very substantial benefits," Levine said, such as doubling metabolic rate and improving blood sugar levels. "Although you don't sweat, your body moving is sort of purring along."

Sales at Indianapolis-based TreadDesk are expected to increase 25 percent this year as large corporations, including Microsoft, Coca Cola, United Healthcare and Procter & Gamble have started buying the workstations in bulk, said Jerry Carr, the company's president.

At LifeSpan Fitness, based in Salt Lake City, sales of treadmill desks more than tripled over 2012, said Peter Schenk, company president.

"We don't see the growth slowing down for several years as right now we are just moving from early adopters, which are educated and highly health conscious, to more mainstream users," Schenk said. With bicycle desks or desk cycles, workers can pedal their way through the day on a small stationary bike mounted under their desk. Treadmill desks can range from about \$800 to \$5,000 or more, depending on the



Josh Baldonado, an administrative assistant at Brown & Brown Insurance, works at a treadmill desk in the firm's offices in Carmel, Ind., Wednesday, Aug. 28, 2013. Workers sign up for 30 slots not the treadmills and have their phone and computer transferred to the workstations.

Associated Press

manufacturer and model. Desks cycles start as low as \$149 for models that can fit under an existing desk but can run \$1,400 or more for those with a desk built in. Standup desks can run as low as \$250 for platforms that can rest on an existing

desk.

Some workers have opted for lower-profile — and lower-cost — ways to stay fit at work, such as sitting on giant exercise balls instead of chairs. □



Marriott Aruba Surf Club GOLD Season

Oceanside \$10k Oceanview \$9500
Oceanfront \$15,000
3 BEDRM OV \$15,000

Platinum Season

Oceanview \$18k Oceanside \$19k
Oceanfront \$29k 3 BEDRM \$29k
Plat Plus Holiday 51 OV -\$42k
Plat Plus NY 52 OV- \$49k

Marriott Aruba Ocean Club

Platinum 2B Oceanview \$19k
Oceanfront PLAT \$29k
Platinum 1B OV \$12,500
Gold season 2B OV \$10,000
Oceanfront 2B \$17,000
1B Oceanfront \$9,500

La Cabana Beach & Racquet Club

Preferred Resale Company
ALL summer & fall weeks
starting at \$3k
Studio, 1Bdrm & 2Bdrm available.

WE NEED SELLERS!!

Divi, Costa Linda & Playa Linda
We also RENT Aruba
weeks for owners.

We can help you BUY, SELL or
RENT any timeshare property.
www.concierge Realty.com
Julie Miller Lic Agent x 111
Michelle Donato Lic Broker x101
michelledonato@cfl.rr.com
321-206-6293 or 888-888-2204

Classifieds

250K US 1 mile from beach,
turnkey 3 bd 2 bath new villa
granite counter top kitchen
stainless steel appliances.
Open area vault ceiling central
air, water heater, security
system
+297-593 0946 AUA
+1702 862 0711 USA

198863

FOR SALE

La Cabana Beach Resort

Week # 2 rare
2 bedroom ocean front room
#202 E call Boston area:
508-498-8886
e-mail: masbas@comcast.net
\$19,900

200771

FOR SALE

Renaissance Ocean View

wk 1 -137 \$10,500
wk 16 two weeks to Rent
\$1000 a week
Call 1-781-760-1048 (cell)
1-781-324-8130
Joe or Mary Summers

114364

LA CABANA

Fixed Week Owners

Ensure No changes to your
units/weeks. Vote YES 2013
AGM to extend our current
articles of association
www.fwoal.proboards.com

200073

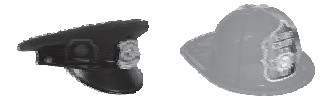
DOCTOR ON DUTY Oranjestad



Dr. Yagua-Fingal

EMERGENCIA

911



POLIS	100
POLIS	581-1100
ORANJESTAD	582-4000
NOORD	587-0009
STA. CRUZ	585-4710
SAVANETA	584-7000
SAN NICOLAS	584-5000
FIRE DEPT.	115
FIRE DEPT.	582-1108
POLIS TIPLINE	11141
HOSPITAL	527-4000
AMBULANCE	582-1234
SAN NICOLAS	
AMBULANCE	584-5050

PHARMACY

O'STAD: Sta. Cruz Tel: 585-8028
S. NICOLAS-Seroe Preto Tel: 584-4833

SERVICES

INFORMATION	118
SETAR	582-2116
TAXI	582-5900
TAXI-TAS	587-5900
PROF. TAXI	588-0035
TAXI D.T.S.	587-2300
SERVICE ARUBA	583-3232

CRUISESHIP

Sep. 16

Monarch

Aruba Airport	524-2424
American Airline	582-2700
Avianca	588-0059
Dutch Antilles	588-1900
Insel Air	588-9314
Jet Blue	588-2244
Spirit Airlines	582-7117
Tiara Air	588-4272
Venezolana	583-7674

FOUNDATION

FELLOWSHIP CLINIC

Tel: 584-6440
Alcoholism & Drug Addiction,
Anonymity guaranteed

FUNDACION

Anti-Droga

Aruba
(FADA) Tel: 583-2999

FUNDACION

Respetami

Tel: 582-4433

Diabetic Foundation

Arubano

Tel: 583-3808

Narcotics Anonymous

Tel: 583-8989

Foundation Amor

pa Prohimo

Tel: 583-3345 /586-6976

Women in Difficulties

Foundation

Tel: 583-5400

Bloodbank Aruba

Tel: 587-0002

Tel: 582-0697 / 583-7484

Schotland str. 70

Email: quality@setarnet.aw

Website: www.arubaqualityapartments.com

Extend your Stay at

Quality Apartments

*Studio & Loft Apts.

*Fully Furnished

*Kitchen / Airco / Cable TV

*Swimming Pool

Less than 1 mile from Eagle Beach & 4 large supermarkets.

Feel free to contact or visit us.

Mon - Fri: 8am-7pm. Sat & Sun: 9am-5pm.

NASA: Voyager 1 probe has left the solar system

ALICIA CHANG
AP Science Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Voyager 1 has crossed a new frontier, becoming the first spacecraft ever to leave the solar system, NASA said Thursday.

Thirty-six years after it was launched from Earth on a tour of the outer planets, the plutonium-powered probe is more than 11 1/2 billion miles (18.51 billion kilometers) from the sun, cruising through interstellar space — the vast, cold emptiness between the stars, the space agency said.

Voyager 1 actually made its exit more than a year ago, according to NASA. But it's not as if there's a dotted boundary line or a signpost out there, and it was not until recently that scientists with the space agency had enough evidence to say that the probe had finally plowed through the hot plasma bubble surrounding the planets and escaped the sun's influence.

While some scientists remain unconvinced, NASA celebrated with a news conference featuring the theme from "Star Trek."

"We got there," said mission chief scientist Ed Stone of the California Institute of Technology, adding that the spacecraft was "setting sail in the cosmic seas between the stars."

While Voyager 1 may have



This artist rendering released by NASA shows NASA's Voyager 1 spacecraft in space. The space agency announced Thursday, Sept. 12, 2013 that Voyager 1 has become the first spacecraft to enter interstellar space, or the space between stars, more than three decades after launching from Earth.

Associated Press

left the solar system as most people understand it, it still has hundreds, perhaps thousands, of years to go before bidding adieu to the last icy bodies that make up our neighborhood.

Voyager 1 will now study exotic particles and other phenomena in a never-before-explored part of the universe littered with ancient star explosions and radio the data back to Earth, where the Voyager team awaits the starship's discoveries.

The interstellar ambassador also carries a gold-plated disc containing multicultural greetings, songs and photos, just in case it bumps into an intel-

ligent species.

Voyager 1's odyssey began in 1977 when the spacecraft and its twin, Voyager 2, were launched on a tour of the gas giant planets of the solar system. After beaming back dazzling postcard views of Jupiter's giant red spot and Saturn's shimmering rings, Voyager 2 hopped to Uranus and Neptune. Meanwhile, Voyager 1 used Saturn as a gravitational slingshot to power itself past Pluto.

Voyager 1, which is about the size of a subcompact car, carries instruments that study magnetic fields, cosmic rays and solar wind.

Last year, scientists monitoring Voyager 1 noticed

strange happenings that suggested the spacecraft had broken through: Charged particles streaming from the sun suddenly vanished. At the same time, there was a spike in galactic cosmic rays bursting in from the outside.

Since there was no detectable change in the direction of the magnetic field lines, the team assumed the far-flung craft was still in the heliosphere, or the vast bubble of charged particles around the sun.

The Voyager team patiently waited for a change in magnetic field direction — thought to be the telltale sign of a cosmic border crossing. But in the meantime, a chance so-

lar eruption caused the space around Voyager 1 to echo like a bell last spring and provided the scientists with the data they needed, convincing them the boundary had been crossed in August of last year.

With the new data, "it took us 10 seconds to realize we were in interstellar space," said Don Gurnett, a Voyager scientist at the University of Iowa who led the new research, published online in the journal *Science*.

The new observations are fascinating, but "it's premature to judge," said Leonard Fisk, a space science professor at the University of Michigan and former NASA associate administrator who was not part of the team. "Can we wait a little while longer? Maybe this picture will clear up the farther we go."

Fisk was bothered by the absence of a change in magnetic field direction.

Harvard astrophysicist Jonathan McDowell said he would like to see more data and Voyager 1 "solidly outside for a while."

Voyager 2 trails behind at 9 1/2 billion miles (15.29 billion kilometers) from the sun. It may take another three years before Voyager 2 joins its twin on the other side. Eventually, the Voyagers will run out of nuclear fuel and will have to power down their instruments, perhaps by 2025. □

Ig Nobel awards honor weird, funny discoveries

Ig Nobel awards honor weird, funny discoveries

— An experiment that proved people who think they are drunk also think they are attractive and another that showed lost dung beetles can use the Milky Way to find their way home were among the winners at this year's Ig Nobel awards ceremony held Thursday.

This is the 23rd year for the award, sponsored by the science humor magazine *Annals of Improbable Research* and

given out to honor weird and humorous scientific discoveries. The winners come from all over the world.

Actual Nobel laureates announced the winners during a ceremony at Harvard University.

Editor Marc Abrahams, who organized the ceremony, said the point is to make people laugh and then think.

"The combination of science that is funny on its own — not because someone is making a joke, but it is funny —

that's an unusual notion in the United States," he said. "It is becoming more acceptable again."

For the first time, the winners received cash prizes — \$10 trillion, but in Zimbabwe dollars. So they'll each get about four U.S. dollars.

The awards ceremonies are usually silly, and this year's was no different. It included a mini-opera and a contest to win a date with a Nobel laureate.

The winners will give

short speeches Saturday at MIT.

The psychology prize went to the experiment that found people who think they are drunk also think they are attractive, done by Laurent Bègue, Oulmann Zerhouni, Baptiste Subra and Medhi Ourabah of France and Brad Bushman, a professor at Ohio State University who also teaches in the Netherlands.

The dung beetle navigation experiment won the joint prize in biology and astronomy, given to Ma-

rie Dacke, Emily Baird, Marcus Byrne, Clarke Scholtz and Eric Warrant, who work in Sweden, Australia, South Africa, the United Kingdom and Germany.

Other winners included Brian Crandall of the U.S. and Peter Stahl of Canada and the U.S., who parboiled a dead shrew, then swallowed it without chewing so they could examine their excrement to see which bones would dissolve in the human digestive system and which would. □

'Today' show rebooting with Daly, studio revamp

DAVID BAUDER

AP Television Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — NBC is seeking to reboot the "Today" show by adding Carson Daly, unveiling a new studio set that resembles a "hipster New York City apartment" and a sharper focus gleaned from studies of what viewers and lapsed viewers say they want.

The new look will debut next Monday, and NBC executives offered a studio tour Thursday. But the real work is in the content, and new NBC News President Deborah Turness — just five weeks into her job — has made a "Today" reboot a top priority.

Daly will be stationed in the studio's new "Orange Room," where he will provide continual updates on how the show's stories are trending online and what kind of feedback viewers are offering through social media.

The set's new anchor desk will be on a revolving platform that lets "Today" personalities look out over fans peering in through the street-side window. Al Roker has a new 82-inch touch-screen weather display to play with, there's a new orange couch and all

manner of high-def screens and energy-friendly lights.

"We think it's an incredibly warm and inviting place," Turness said. "We feel like it's somebody's home — our home."

The well-publicized problems at "Today" are part of the reason Turness was brought from England for the job. The once-dominant morning show had its 852-week winning streak — that's 17 years — broken by ABC's "Good Morning America" last year. "GMA" now has a streak of its own, winning last week for the 55th week in a row. The "Today" daily audience of 4.57 million last week was 743,000 behind ABC, the Nielsen company said.

Despite the change in fortunes, NBC says its studies have shown that only 10 percent of "Today" viewers who have abandoned the show over the past few years have turned to "Good Morning America" instead.

"Today" is devoting itself to a mission statement that involves substance, making connections with viewers and offering people who watch something uplifting, Turness said. She pointed to stories in recent weeks in-



This June 24, 2013 photo released by NBC shows Carson Daly on NBC News' "Today" show in New York. NBC says Carson Daly is joining the on-air team at the "Today" show.

Associated Press

volving Bradley Manning's sex change, interrogation footage of Cleveland kidnapper Ariel Castro and Matt Lauer's interviews with Paula Deen and Alex Rodriguez's lawyer.

"We are a news show," Turness said. "I'll say it again. We are a news show."

At the same time, she said the show's promise is that "even in the darkness, we will seek the light." She

mentioned how Lauer was on the scene when the spire of the One World Trade Center tower was put into place.

Besides the studio, some of the other changes are cosmetic, and reference back to the show's history. With a sunrise in its logo, NBC stations across the country are putting cameras on the roof to catch video of the sun rising and "Today"

is asking viewers to send in their own sunrise pictures to show on the air.

Lauer said that the mission statement and tightening of the show's focus is appreciated. "We were occupying too wide a space for a while," he said.

The show is using relevance as a standard for the stories it puts on the air, "and that's much different from 'buzzy,'" he said. □

JK Rowling to pen new magic movie for Warner Bros.

JILL LAWLESS

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — J.K. Rowling's world of wizardry is coming back to the big screen — but without Harry Potter.

Film studio Warner Bros. announced Thursday that Rowling will write the screenplay for a movie based on "Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them," her textbook to the magical universe she created in the boy wizard's stories.

The story will focus on the book's fictitious author, Newt Scamander, and is anticipated to be the first in a series.

Rowling said in a statement the movie "is neither a prequel nor a sequel to the Harry Potter series, but

an extension of the wizarding world."

She said the story would begin in New York 70 years before the start of Harry Potter's tale.

Screenwriting is the latest in a string of new ventures for Rowling since she finished writing the Harry Potter series, which has sold more than 450 million copies around the world.

She has published a novel for adults, "The Casual Vacancy," and written detective thriller "The Cuckoo's Calling" under the pseudonym Robert Galbraith.

Rowling said the idea for a "Fantastic Beasts" film had come from Warner Bros., and she soon realized she could not entrust another writer with her creation.

"Having lived for so long in my fictional universe, I feel very protective of it," she said. "I already knew a lot about Newt."

"As I considered Warner's proposal, an idea took shape that I couldn't dislodge.

That is how I ended up pitching my own idea for a film to Warner Bros."

As well as movies, Warner Bros. said "Fantastic Beasts" would be "developed across the studio's video game, consumer products and digital initiatives businesses."

Warner Bros., a unit of Time Warner Inc., was behind eight Harry Potter movies, released between 2001 and 2011. Rowling did not write the screenplays for



This is a Thursday, Sept. 27, 2012 file photo of British author J.K. Rowling as she poses for the photographers during photo call to unveil her new book, entitled: 'The Casual Vacancy', at the Southbank Centre in London.

Associated Press

those films, which Warner Bros. says took in \$7.7 billion at the global box office.

Since the film series wrapped up, the company has been involved in related ventures including a Harry Potter studio tour near London, Universal's Wizarding World of Harry

Potter theme park in Orlando, Florida, and the Pottermore website.

Warner Bros. also said Thursday it would be the worldwide distributor for a television adaptation of "The Casual Vacancy." The BBC is due to film the miniseries next year. □

Stevie Nicks, Lady Antebellum team on 'CMT Crossroads'



This Jan. 29, 2013 file photo shows Hillary Scott, left, Charles Kelley, second left and Dave Haywood, right, of Lady Antebellum performing with Stevie Nicks at the CMT taping of "Crossroads" in Culver City, Calif.

Associated Press

KRISTIN M. HALL
Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tennessee (AP) — Lady Antebellum may be on hiatus, but fans are still getting a chance to see something new from the Nashville trio.

Lady A will join Stevie Nicks on Friday night's episode of "CMT Crossroads," the show that matches country stars with partners from different musical genres.

"Performing with Stevie Nicks is by far the coolest thing we have ever done in our career," Lady A's Charles Kelley said. "I

mean, it really was. We are actually going to have a little viewing party at my house that night because we're just excited."

CMT recorded the performance last spring in Los Angeles before Lady A singer Hillary Scott gave birth to her first child this summer. The group has been on a break for two months and won't return to the road till later this year.

The show airs 10 p.m. EDT and pairs the trio with Nicks, a member of Fleetwood Mac, a group Lady A is often compared to because

of its use of harmony. The singers will tackle songs from the catalogs of each, including "Rhiannon," "Stop Draggin' My Heart Around" and "Need You Now." "I mean, honestly, it really was one of those collaborations that I think if we had to put five names on a list, you know, who would have been on it?" Kelley said. "I mean, dream lists, Paul McCartney, Tom Petty and Stevie Nicks would have been in that five. So the fact that it was her idea and she came to us about it was even cooler." □



This Sept. 7, 2013 photo released by the O&M Co. shows k.d. lang, left, and Wynton Marsalis in New York.

Associated Press

Singer k.d. lang joins Broadway's 'After Midnight'

MARK KENNEDY
AP Drama Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Grammy Award-winning singer k.d. lang has sung everything from country songs to folk and torch songs. Now she's about to unleash her jazz side — on Broadway. The Canadian singer-songwriter will take over from Fantasia Barrino as the second star vocalist in "After Midnight," a musical celebrating Duke Ellington's years at the famous Cotton Club nightclub in Harlem. Lang starts performances Feb. 11 and will end her run March 9.

Directed and choreographed by Warren Carlyle with musical direction by Wynton Marsalis, the show appeared off-Broadway

last year at New York City Center under the name "Cotton Club Parade." Songs include "Stormy Weather," "I Can't Give You Anything But Love" and "I've Got the World on a String." The show stars Dule Hill who will play the host of the show.

Performances start Oct. 18 at the Brooks Atkinson Theatre, with an official opening night set for Nov. 3.

In a career spanning 25 years, lang has won four Grammys and is perhaps best known for her cover of Roy Orbison's "Crying," her interpretation of Leonard Cohen's "Hallelujah" and her hit song "Constant Craving." In April, she was inducted into the Canadian Music Hall of Fame. □



This Feb. 10, 2013 file photo shows Nas at the 55th annual Grammy Awards in Los Angeles. The rapper will appear in the film "Black Nativity," has earned a Harvard University fellowship in his name and will celebrate his 40th birthday on Saturday, Sept. 14.

Associated Press

Life is good: Nas on turning 40, film, fellowship

JONATHAN LANDRUM Jr.
Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — Nas says life has been really great since his 11th album, the critically acclaimed "Life Is Good," was released last year. The album was nominated for four Grammy Awards, including best rap album, this year. He was honored with a Harvard University fellowship in his name. And he has a role in an upcoming movie. "I'm happy with the ride

that I'm on," the rapper said in an interview this week. "I'm excited about everything.

My music benefits from my excitement right now. Everything that's happening in my life, I feel extremely blessed."

He is being honored with the Nasir Jones Hip-Hop Fellowship at Harvard's W.E.B. Du Bois Institute. The fellowship will assist students who excel in the arts "in connection with hip-hop."

Nas said he's working on new music, but he's more eager to see himself in the upcoming adaptation of Langston Hughes' "Black Nativity," which stars Forest Whitaker, Mary J. Blige and Jennifer Hudson.

The film opens Nov. 27. He'll celebrate his 40th birthday on Saturday, and he welcomes the jokes.

"It's only been a few jokes here and there, but I need to hear more," he said. "It's all fun." □

Threaten To Threaten



THOMAS L. FRIEDMAN
© 2013 New York Times

If you're an average American and are confused and worried about our getting embroiled in a no-win Syrian civil war, you're right to be concerned. It means you're paying attention. But if you're a member of Congress or a senator who's still wondering whether to grant President Barack Obama the authority to use force to deter Syrian President Bashar Assad from again murdering hundreds of his people with poison gas, it now makes sense to take a timeout. That also means you're paying attention. A new situation has been created in the last two days by the Russian offer - embraced by Obama, all of our major allies and China, but still only vaguely accepted by Syria - for Syria to turn over its stockpiles of poison gas to international control. Let's have no illusion. There's still a real possibility that the Russians and Syrians are just stalling and will fudge in the end, and even if one or both are serious, there are formidable logistical and political obstacles to securing Syria's chemical weapons swiftly and completely. Part of me wonders: Has anybody thought this through?

But all of me wants to acknowledge that if a Syrian surrender of poison gas were implemented - still a big if - it would be a good end to this near-term crisis. The global taboo on poison gas would be upheld, and America would not have to get embroiled in a shooting war in Syria. If all of this sounds incredibly messy and confusing, it is. And while Obama and his team have contributed to this mess by way too much loose talk, in fairness, there is also a deep structural reason for it. Obama is dealing with an Arab world that no modern president has had to confront.

Until 2010, the Arab Middle East had been relatively stable for 35 years. The combination of the Cold War, the rise of oil-funded dictators who built strong security states and the peace between Egypt and Israel imposed order. But the convergence in the 2010s of Arab population explosions, joblessness, environmental degradation, water scarcity, falling oil revenues and the information revolution blew apart governments that once seemed solid - Syria, Egypt, Tunisia, Iraq, Libya

and Yemen - forcing us now to confront some new and very uncomfortable questions, not just the use of force.

One is this: Are some things true even if George W. Bush believed them? No one, hawk or dove, wants to see U.S. boots on the ground in Syria, under any conditions. Count me among them. The only problem is that it is impossible to imagine a solution to the conflict in Syria without some outside force putting boots on the ground. When you get the degree of state and social breakdown that you have in such a multiracial and multisectarian society as Syria, there is no trust with which to govern and rotate power. Therefore, you need either a midwife or a Mandela or a trusted military (à la Egypt) to referee the transition to a new order. And since Syria has no Mandela and no trusted military, it is going to need an external midwife. I understand why there are no volunteers, but the U.N. Security Council will eventually have to address this reality, otherwise Syria will become Afghanistan on the Mediterranean.

There are also some uncomfortable questions we need to pose to our Arab allies. During the Cold War, our fear of communism and dependence on oil made us ready to align with anyone who was with us against the Soviets. We never questioned our Arab allies about what values they were promoting at home.

Well, here is a question we need to start posing: There are reportedly thousands of Arab and Muslim youths who have come from as far away as Australia to join the jihadist militias in Syria fighting to create a Sunni Islamist state there. But how many Arab and Muslim youth have flocked to Syria to fight with the decent elements of the Free Syrian Army for a multisectarian, pluralistic, democratic Syria - that is, the kind of Syria we hope for and envisage? I have not read of any. Arms purveyors, yes, but not people putting their own lives on the line.

I am glad that Arab Gulf leaders are supporting us publicly - most of them are moderates in the Middle East context - but everyone knows that mosques and charities in those same countries are financing the jihadists. Attention: With the Soviets and the oil lines gone, Americans today are not going to expend blood and treasure to defend people and places in the Arab world that don't share our values and are also not ready to sacrifice for them. We can't afford it anymore, and we don't need to.

So give Obama credit for standing up for an important principle in a chaotic region. But also give the American people some credit. They're telling our leaders something important: It's hard to keep facing down Middle East Hitlers when there are no Churchills on the other side. □



New York Has A Message



GAIL COLLINS
© 2013 New York Times

What lessons can non-New Yorkers draw from the city's primary elections? Where do we begin? Right now, you're probably asking yourself: What do the results of this week's elections in New York City mean to me? This could be a pressing question, even if you live in, say, Des Moines. When New York votes, there's always an Iowa take-away.

For instance, on Tuesday all the sex-scandal veterans were defeated - Anthony Weiner, Eliot Spitzer, and a City Council candidate named Vito Lopez. It's possible you have never heard of that last one, but he was just terrible: the king of grope. Also, a City Council candidate involved in another sexual harassment case lost after voters learned that he had made unwanted verbal advances to a female staffer during games of virtual Scrabble.

So the question is: What lessons can non-New Yorkers draw from all this?

A) Wow, you people have really weird candidates.

B) This is the end of the second act for politicians who lose their jobs because of sexual misbehavior. They'll no longer be able to imagine that they can get back in the game under the guise of wanting to "serve the community."

C) There are sex scandals, and then there are sex scandals.

Well, A is definitely right. If you are

a New Yorker, people in other parts of the country will often tell you: "Boy, I wish I could spend some time in New York!" But nobody ever says: "Boy, I wish I could vote in New York!" And for good reason.

Not B. Back-from-sex-scandal candidates will always be with us, particularly if the comeback target is a seat in Congress. Voters will overlook a lot when it comes to Congress, perhaps because they like the idea of sending these people out of town. Just this spring, South Carolina shipped the disgraced ex-governor Mark Sanford off to the House. Just this week, National Journal reported that Sanford got a special exemption from the rules so that his mistress-turned-fiancée could accompany him on a Congressional trip to Israel. I would like to discuss all the thoughts that come to mind when we combine "Mark Sanford" and "trip," but there is just not enough room.

Possibly C. Remember the recent ouster of the San Diego mayor who gave his name to the "Filler headlock." Voters may have decided they'll put up with a lot, but not sexual harassment.

Now let's move on. Really, New York is capable of providing large thoughts that do not concern sex. One of them involves Bill de Blasio, who zoomed from nowhere into first place in the race for the Democratic mayoral nomination. He may have even gotten more than the 40 percent needed to avoid a runoff. We probably won't get the final results for days. Or weeks. (If this was a major swing state, the nation would never know who got elected president.)

Politicians around the country are going to be looking at de Blasio's campaign to figure out how he made his meteoric rise. One very big factor was a TV ad he aired that featured his son, Dante, talking about his father's

stand on the issues. Michael Barbaro of The Times, in a postelection analysis, called it "the commercial that changed the course of the mayor's race."

Instantly, we see a threat that voters around the country will have to spend the next several years watching ads starring politicians' children. The good news is that we've been there before, and it usually doesn't work. Perhaps you remember the daughters of Jon Huntsman. Last year's Rhode Island Senate race featured a cute 5-year-old delivering a lecture about his father's virtues. It was adorable. Dad lost, 2 to 1.

The thing viewers remember most about the de Blasio ad is not the candidate's housing policy but the fact that his family is racially mixed: he's white, his wife is black and Dante has the most impressive Afro since Angela Davis.

That was what Mayor Michael Bloomberg was referring to when he called the de Blasio campaign "racist" in a New York magazine interview. "It's comparable to me pointing out I'm Jewish in attracting the Jewish vote," he added.

The mayor's remarks were an excellent example of why the other big factor in de Blasio's ascension was Bloomberg fatigue.

They also missed the point. The real key to the Dante ad was not that it reminded black voters that the candidate had an African-American wife. It was the way it appealed to our multiethnic yearning for racial harmony. The de Blasio family seems so happy. The pictures of them laughing together remind you both of how far we've come and where we'd like to go. It's the same effect the nation got when Barack Obama talked about his background and you remembered that when Obama was born, less than 10 percent of Americans approved of interracial marriage. □

New Devices Mind Pets While Owners Are Away

**MIKE HENDRICKS
ROXIE HAMMILL**

© 2013 New York Times

There's an undercurrent of anxiety behind the newest pet products that busy working parents will instantly recognize.

What are the darlings doing all day while I'm at the office? Are they snacking too much? Getting enough exercise? Becoming surly and stupid from lack of intellectual stimulation? Could

celerometer registers your dog's every move and feeds you the data via a smartphone app. The half-ounce device, which costs \$100, clips to a dog's collar and can tell an owner whether the dog has been asleep all afternoon or chasing its tail.

Tracking a pet's movements isn't just about tracking its health, said Ben Jacobs, co-founder of Whistle. Sudden changes in

being built into the newest pet doors.

Electronic pet doors have been around for more than a decade, and sturdy, low-tech ones open and close like garage doors, activated by a pet wearing a battery-powered ultrasonic collar.

But some newer flap doors have features that promise greater flexibility and the ability to collect data on the animal's activity.

Business Unit at PetSafe, because during product development one pet owner testing the product requested nine keys for nine pets. Suggested retail price: \$229 for a door that accommodates cats and small dogs and \$279 for the medium door.

OK, but what if after all this fact-gathering it turns out your dog is lethargic as a slug?

Then there's an assortment

companies - AiKiou and Northmate - have redesigned chow time to give pets an intellectual challenge while making sure they don't eat too fast.

AiKiou (pronounced as IQ) sells food-delivery systems for dogs and cats (think: food bowl) that work with the animals' natural problem-solving skills, said Alexandre Tremblay, co-founder of the family-owned company in a suburb of Montreal. The dog bowl, for example, is shaped like a paw and has sliding covers the dog must push around to get to the food.

Then there's the company's Stimulo Cat Interactive Feeder, which has a series of tubes too small for a cat to put its face into. Instead, it must use its paws to fish out the morsels inside.

So for an after-dinner activity, what better than a game of chase? That's the idea behind San Diego-based Go-Go Dog Pals.

Convinced his dog needed more exercise, Will Bowen powered up an old remote control car in the park and his dog, Kota, went crazy for chasing it.

"It's a dog's favorite thing to do, really," he said.

But toy racecars aren't built for the roughhousing that the average dog brings to the equation. So Bowen's inspiration was to "ruggedize" common, off-the-shelf racecar parts by encasing the chassis in a hard plastic covering.

The first Go-Go Dog Pals varmint goes 22 mph, and costs \$230. It looks sort of like a cartoon woodchuck, and two new models - a skunk and a raccoon - are expected to be available soon.

Cats also are benefiting from new electronic toys. An old-fashioned, hand-held laser pointer can, of course, be a frenetic bonding experience. But when master is away, why not let the cats play with something like the programmable FroliCat Dart Duo? At about \$40, it has two rotating laser lights that have speed and timer settings for "16 engaging play combinations." □



In an undated handout photo, a dog wears the Whistle Activity Monitor on its collar. Whistle, a stainless steel tag embedded with an accelerometer, clips onto a dog's collar, registers its every move and feeds the pet owner the data via a smartphone app.

(Handout via The New York Times)

they be getting sick?

Not to worry. There's a wealth of innovative tools meant to ease the fears of even the most guilt-ridden pet owner. And since two-thirds of Americans share their homes with an animal, according to the American Pet Products Association, perhaps it shouldn't be a surprise that pet care is going high tech, from tracking devices to a motorized, toy varmint that's tough enough to withstand a big dog's chomp.

Take Whistle, one of a number of new pet-monitoring devices. A stainless steel tag embedded with an ac-

celerometer registers your dog's every move and feeds you the data via a smartphone app. The half-ounce device, which costs \$100, clips to a dog's collar and can tell an owner whether the dog has been asleep all afternoon or chasing its tail.

Similar products have been on the market for a couple of years now, but they're adding features. For instance, Tagg - The Pet Tracker was initially meant to help owners find lost pets with global positioning technology when it was first sold in 2011.

Since then, a tracking feature that charts a pet's daily activity has been added. Like Whistle, it costs \$100.

Tracking capability is also

Among the newest and most advanced on the market is the PASSport Pet Access Smart System, which PetSafe unveiled at this year's Global Pet Expo and is just starting to sell.

Ideal for anyone with a pet menagerie, the PASSport door can be programmed so that up to 20 animals can have unique time restrictions for going in and out of the house (as long as they weigh less than 50 pounds, since a larger door isn't offered yet).

Do 20 radio frequency identification keys seem excessive? Not to Bill Groh, director of the Pet Access

of dog treadmills meant to keep off extra pounds. The first dog treadmills were used in the 1800s to churn butter and they have long been used by professionals and show dog owners. But lately, interest in home treadmills has taken off, said Krista Wickens, co-founder of PetZen, of Ogden, Utah.

Wickens' company sells three sizes, costing \$500 to \$1,000. Demand, she said, has doubled since her first model went on sale five years ago.

Getting your pet off the couch is one thing, and calorie intake another. Two